

TOOLBOX TALK

Ladder and Fall Protection Training

The updated OSHA standard for ladder and fall protection now requires training. Subpart D, Walking-Working Surfaces, of OSHA's General Industry standard was updated and expanded in 2017.

The standard now addresses personal fall protection systems, protection from falling objects, scaffold use, safety net systems, step bolts, manhole steps and the duty to have fall protection for specific areas listed in the standard.

The updated rule now requires that employers train each employee in the following:

- ◆ The nature of fall hazards in the work area and how to recognize them;
- ◆ The procedures to be followed to minimize those hazards;
- ◆ The correct procedures for installing, inspecting, operating, maintaining and disassembling the personal fall protection systems that the employee uses; AND
- ◆ The correct use of personal fall protection systems and equipment including proper hook-up, anchoring and tie-off techniques and methods of equipment inspection and storage as specified by the manufacturer.
- ◆ The employees must also be trained in the proper care, inspection, storage and use of equipment covered by this standard (ladders, scaffold, guard rail systems).

The training must be conducted by a qualified person and must be provided in a manner that each employee understands. The employer must retrain an employee when the employer has reason to believe the employee does not have the understanding and skill to recognize fall hazards and properly use provided equipment. Retraining must also be conducted when changes to the types of fall protection systems or equipment render the previous training obsolete.

