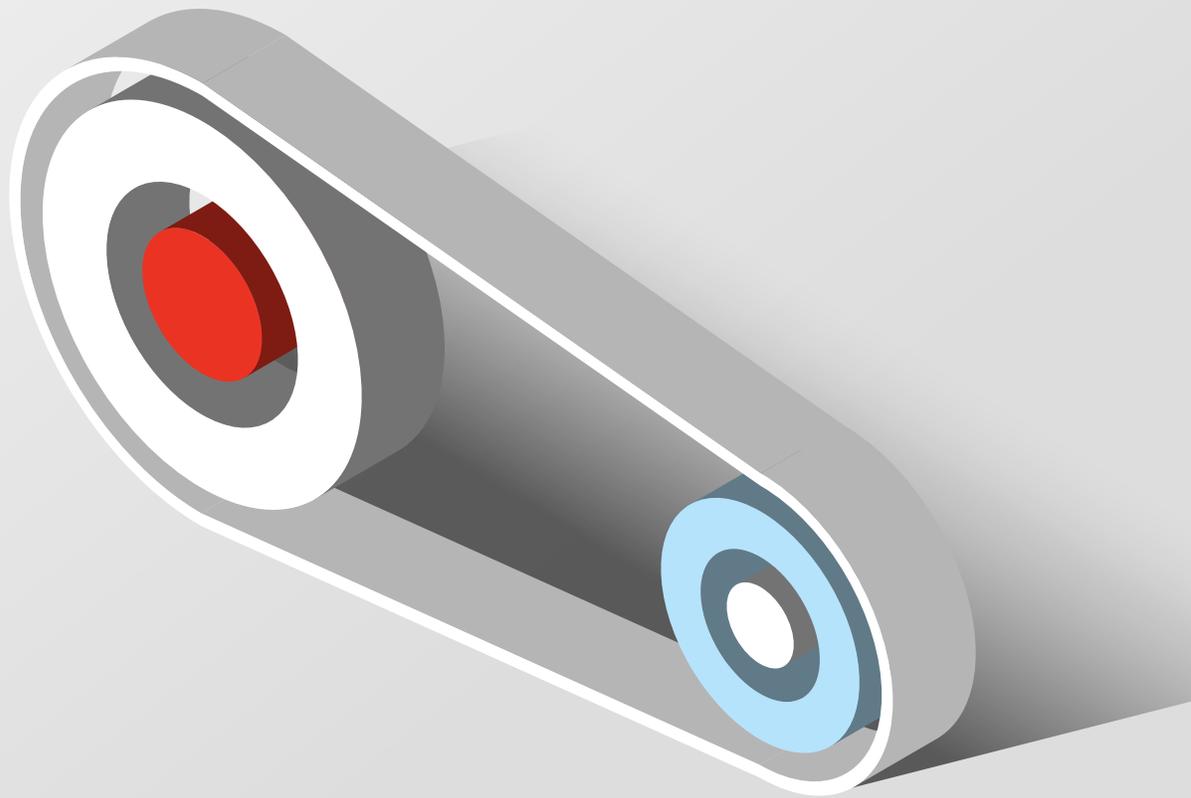




GUIDE

# Falling up:

How to counteract the increase in deadly falls on construction sites



With alarming frequency, fall protection once again tops the list of OSHA's most cited violations for the 10th year in a row. And with scaffolding, ladders and fall protection training violations also on the list, working from height remains the biggest safety issue on construction sites.

According to the agency's [preliminary data for 2020](#), the full breakdown of violations is as follows:

1. Fall Protection – General Requirements: **5,424** violations
2. Hazard Communication: **3,199**
3. Respiratory Protection: **2,649**
4. Scaffolding: **2,538**
5. Ladders: **2,129**
6. Lockout/Tagout: **2,065**
7. Powered Industrial Trucks: **1,932**
8. Fall Protection – Training Requirements: **1,621**
9. Personal Protective and Life Saving Equipment – Eye and Face Protection: **1,369**
10. Machine Guarding: **1,313**

While respiratory protection violations climb to from fifth to third place, likely due to COVID-19-related measures, this year saw ladder violations move into the top 5 - another indication that falls are a major safety issue the construction industry continues to grapple with.



## The numbers behind the numbers

Simply looking at violations, however, obscures a more pressing issue: Falls are the leading cause of death in construction, and deaths are steadily increasing. According to the [Center for Research Construction and Training](#):

- ▶ Fatal falls have increased 54% since 2011, reaching 401 deaths in 2019
- ▶ Falls accounted for 36% of construction deaths in 2019
- ▶ Roofs, ladders and scaffolds were major sources of these fatalities, and deaths involving roofs jumped from 28% from 2018 to 2019

Construction work will always be dangerous, but these deaths are preventable. The onus is on employers to do everything possible to protect their workers.

## Plan, provide, train

When a job requires working from height, employers must plan for, budget in and provide the necessary equipment and training to ensure the work will be done safely.

First off, for any employee working 6 feet or more above a lower level, it's critical that the equipment provided matches the job at hand. Given the variety of fall protection equipment – lanyards, straps, rope-grabs, anchors, beamers, harnesses - it can be a challenge to find the best fit. But when chosen and used properly, the right equipment for the right job prevents accidents and saves lives. And with the spread of higher-tech safety gear, such as personal fall arrest systems, SOS triggers, push-to-talk devices and other connected wearables, fall prevention is just one good decision away.

Employers must also proactively train workers on the proper use of equipment. But as violations for fall protection training repeatedly rank in OSHA's annual top 10, it's clear that one-time training is not enough. Continuous training on a job site can help workers learn to recognize the various fall hazards on the job. For example, toolbox talks, regular training refreshers and visible signage on work sites all go a long way to keeping safety top of mind and preventing accidents in the first place.

 **Equipping workers with mobile technology is an underused but effective way to make their jobs easier and safer.**

Equipping workers with mobile technology is an underused but effective way to make their jobs easier and safer. With a wide array of functions - user-friendly safety checklists, shared and synced data, geotagging, and more - mobile technology gives workers and safety managers the real-time visibility they need to make informed decisions on the spot, whether to prevent fall hazards or respond to them after they've happened.

### **Making safety simple**

Designed to increase the safety and productivity of mobile teams, Fulcrum's no-code mobile platform makes it easy to target and eliminate potential fall hazards, so that injuries and fatalities can be prevented.

Fulcrum lets safety managers create easy-to-use fall protection checklists, giving workers step-by-step instructions to follow safety



protocols at every stage of the job, all in an easy-to-use mobile app for smartphones or tablets. Without the hassle of safety cards and paper forms, both safety managers and workers are now free to concentrate on identifying and eliminating the potential hazards at hand.

Using Fulcrum, [FM Sylvan](#) cut their inspection times in half while reducing the number of safety incidents. Safety comes easier when it takes less time away from other activities you have to get done.

Fulcrum also allows for a faster remediation of hazardous situations. With automatic geotagging and automated workflows, employees can attach and share pictures that detail a potential fall hazard, so the right people can immediately respond to it quickly. And with all information synced to the cloud and accessible from anywhere, safety managers have full visibility to monitor their teams in real time and to coordinate responses to any prevention, remediation or emergency efforts.

Fulcrum helps nurture an overall culture of safety in your company, from the job site to the boardroom. And when everyone is actively engaged in safety - whether they have “safety” in their title or not – everyone stays safe.

 **Start your free 30-day Fulcrum trial today!**

**SIGN UP NOW**