

safety equipment

TIPS FOR DECREASING JOBSITE ACCIDENTS



NEW FALL PROTECTION SYSTEM AVAILABLE

The Fall-Ban CableGuard System from Garlock Equipment Co. is a new OSHA-approved fall protection system that is designed to increase productivity in the 6' OSHA zone. For time savings, it requires a stanchion every 20' and can be repositioned without tearing down the entire system. Tie-off is required only for set-up and tear-down, allowing for free movement on the roof surface once the system is in place.

This system can be configured in straight, curved, angled, square or circular set-ups. It is available in 60', 200' or 400' Flat Commercial Kits. Each kit includes stanchions that hold three 1/4" cables, spool cable, braces, flags and hardware. The entire system can be stored in the optional Fall-Ban Cart, which can be pushed, pulled or towed and has a lockable toolbox. Other options include an overhang roof brace and parapet clamp kit.

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The OSHA website (osha.gov) reported its top 25 most frequently-cited violations for the 2002-2003 year. There seems to be the same top three violations year after year. They are safety violations for 1) Scaffolding, 2) Fall protection and 3) Ladders. The majority of workers are seriously injured or killed every year because of carelessness or misuse involved in these top three areas.

Every jobsite, no matter its size, poses potential harm for the workers. That's why it is so important to implement a "Hazard Assessment" plan before any work is started. A hazard assessment or job hazard analysis is a technique that focuses on identifying hazards before they occur. It has to do with the relationship between the worker, the task involved, the tools used and the work environment itself. This process is simple, easy and can be applied to small subcontractor work where only a few workers are involved or large industrial general contractor work where hundreds of workers are involved.

A proper job hazard analysis should prioritize the potential dangers involved and take steps to eliminate or reduce the likelihood of personal injury. A sample analysis could be as follows: 1) List operations on paper with the highest injury or illness rate; 2) List individual tasks with the potential to cause severe or disabling injuries such as the case with the use of ladders, around skylights, roof edges, or caustic fumes, etc.; 3) List procedures complex enough that written instructions should be followed; 4) List situations in which one simple human error could lead to a severe accident or injury; 5) Review jobs that are new to the jobsite or new to the workforce or have undergone procedural changes.

Also some simple tips to follow for hot summer weather are: 1) Having ample amounts of water available for your workforce. Encourage workers to drink one cup of cool water for every 20 minutes of work, even if they're not thirsty. Avoid alcohol, coffee or caffeinated soft drinks that actually dehydrate the body. 2) Encourage workers to wear lightweight, light colored, loose fitting clothing.

3) Consider a worker's physical conditioning when determining fitness to work in hot environments. Obesity, lack of conditioning or inadequate rest will increase the susceptibility to heat stress.

It is paramount that all employees are involved in the hazard analysis process for every job. The more that they are involved, the more seriously they will follow correct safety procedures. Sometimes a foreman or jobsite superintendent may unintentionally overlook a potentially harmful situation, but if good communication is encouraged with its workers, steps can immediately be taken to correct the situation before someone is injured.

The construction industry by nature will always have some potential for worker injury. However the goal for every employer should be to greatly reduce the potential for injury or loss of life on every construction project as much as humanly possible. This can be done through a little forethought, education, training, good old common sense and designating a specific employee to initiate a hazard assessment program with full employee participation and consistent regular follow-up throughout the project's entirety.



Design Components Inc. offers a variety of safety products such as rooftop-mounted walkways with OSHA-approved safety railings, roof edge protection perimeter railings and OSHA-compliant access ladders.

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