



Falls are the leading cause of death in the construction industry

Preventing Workplace Falls:

- Planning ahead
- Providing the right equipment
- Training everyone correctly on fall hazards, equipment, and use of fall protection

We are here to help!

For additional fall protection resources please visit our webpage:



Virginia DOLI Consultation Services

To help small employers better understand and voluntarily comply with VOSH standards we offer **No Cost** consultation services.

Our Services:

- On-site visits
- Training
- Abatement Advice
- Program Assistance

Schedule our services:

✉ consultation@doli.virginia.gov

🏢 6606 West Broad St
Richmond, VA 23230



Fall Protection and Prevention



Frequently cited fall “trigger” heights in Construction

l < 6' - Guardrail or equipment guard if fall hazard into/onto dangerous equipment:

501(b)(8)(i)

≥ 6' - FP per 501: on exposed sides/edges (b)(1), leading edges (b)(2), hoist areas (b)(3), holes/skylights (b)(4), forms or steel reinforcing (b)(5), ramps, runways, other walkways (b)(6), obscured excavation (b)(7)(i), well, pit, shaft, similar excavations (b)(7)(ii), above dangerous equipment (b)(8)(ii), overhand bricklaying (b)(9), roofing low sloped roof (b)(10), steep roof (b)(11), precast concrete (b)(12), residential construction (b)(13)

10' - All steel erection activities in Virginia
16VAC25-145

3½" - Min height of toeboards for falling object protection: 502(j)(3) 42"± 3" - Height of parapet wall or top rail of a guardrail system or its equivalent: 502(b)(1) 21" - Guardrail system requires midrail unless wall or parapet this height: 502(b)(2) 38" Min height of scaffold top-rail guardrails: 451(g)(4)(ii)

36" - Height an access ladder must extend above an upper level without a hand hold platform: 1053(b)(1)



16 VAC 25 - 145: Fall Protection for Subpart R Steel Erection

- Virginia Specific Standard that is stricter than federal standards of 1926.760.
- Each employee engaged in a steel erection activity who is on a walking/working surface with an unprotected side or edge of 10 feet or more above a lower level shall be protected from fall hazards.
- For more information on this Virginia unique standard please visit our webpage:



Fall Protection in Residential Construction

Residential construction is construction work that satisfies both of the following elements:

- The end-use of the structure being built must be as a home, i.e., a dwelling.
- The structure being built must be constructed using traditional wood frame construction materials and methods. The limited use of structural steel in a predominantly wood-framed home, such as steel I-beam to help support wood framing, does not disqualify a structure from being considered residential construction.

All residential construction employers must comply with 29 CFR 1926.501(b)(13).

Residential construction employers must ensure that employees working six feet or more above lower levels use guardrails, safety nets, or personal fall arrest systems.

OSHA allows the use of an effective fall restraint system in lieu of a personal fall arrest system. To be effective, a fall restraint system must be rigged to prevent a worker from reaching a fall hazard and falling over the edge.

