

## Federal residential construction fall protection rules getting stiffer

Changes in federal Occupational safety and Health Administration rules to protect residential construction workers from falls goes **into effect June 16, 2011**.

Residential construction employers will have to provide workers with fall protection required by the construction fall protection standard issued in 1994 (29 CFR 1926.501(b)(13)).

OSHA is withdrawing a previous policy that allowed residential construction employers to generally use alternative procedures for worker fall protection.

OSHA says falls are the leading cause of death for workers in construction and the change provides residential construction workers with greater protection from being injured or killed on the job.

Under the new procedures, where residential construction employers find that traditional fall protection is not feasible or creates a greater hazard in residential environments, employers will still be allowed to implement alternative procedures that will assure worker protection after developing a written site-specific fall protection plan.

OSHA has developed training and compliance assistance materials that are available on OSHA's [fall protection page](#), including an [educational slide presentation](#) that describes methods usable by employers during various stages of construction. These methods including safety nets, guardrails, and personal fall arrest systems such as body harnesses, lanyards and lifelines.

