

Tailgate Training Sheet

Fall Protection

Greenhouse Environment



The Bureau of Labor Statistics reported that 767 workers died in fatal falls in 2005 - a decline of 7% from 2004. But falls from ladders and roofs still account for the majority of falls. Identifying fall hazards and deciding how best to protect workers is the first step in reducing or eliminating fall hazards.

Repairs or constructing greenhouse buildings or roofs is an on-going maintenance problem in the nursery industry when repairing or replacing poly covering, support beams, white washing, cleaning gutters or replacing broken glass panes. That is why it is important to implement a fall protection program to protect your workers from falls.

OSHA states that when working at heights greater than 7 feet, you must:

- Implement a fall protection program
- Train and supervise workers in the dangers of working at these heights
- Supply the proper fall protection equipment
- Verify that employees are only allowed to work on surfaces that have the strength and



structural integrity to support the weight of workers

- **If an employer does not implement a fall protection program, the burden of proof as to why he did not establish one is with the employer**

To prevent falls in the workplace, many companies have installed guardrails or other effective safety barriers. If this is not feasible, workers must use approved personal fall protection such as fall arrest or travel restraints. Fall arrest may consist of a body harness, a lanyard and a lifeline anchor.

Travel restraints do not allow workers to get too close to an unprotected edge and usually consist of a full body harness, lanyard and a lifeline anchor, as well.

All equipment used for fall protection must be inspected prior to use for wear and tear and to check that it is the right equipment for the job. It also must be inspected annually by a third party to make sure it is in good condition.

If employees are exposed to falling objects the employer must have employees wear hardhats to prevent objects from falling and injuring someone down below. It is also recommended that safety

cones or rope be used to cordon off the area to prevent other employees from walking near the work area.



Verify that you have a system in place that ensures the prompt rescue of an employee in the

event of a fall; also make sure that you are in compliance in regard to the number of employees trained in CPR/ First Aid in the event of an accident.

Whether conducting a hazard assessment or developing a comprehensive fall protection plan, thinking about fall hazards before the work begins will help to manage fall hazards and focus attention on preventive efforts. No work should proceed unless the necessary fall protection is in place. The use of fall protection can prevent serious injury and save lives. If you need more information, look on OSHA's web site at www.osha.com, under Fall Protection.