

TOOLBOX TALK

FALL PROTECTION



Guardrails

According to OSHA, there were over 350 fatal falls to a lower level in 2020. That is why fall protection is so important for heights above 6ft in construction. Guardrails are a common type of fall protection when leading edges, ramps, and walkways are present. Here are some safety tips to follow when creating and maintaining guardrails.

Guardrail Construction

- Must be a strong, smooth surface capable of withstanding a 200lb load
- Toprail must be installed between 39" - 45" in height
- Midrails must be installed between 18" - 24" if there is no wall or parapet
- In lieu of midrails, vertical balusters must be installed every 19"
- Must be installed along all unprotected sides of walkways and holes

Handrail & Stair Rail Construction

- Must be a strong, smooth surface capable of withstanding a 200lb load
- Handrails must be installed between 30" - 38" from top of stair tread
- Stair Rails must be installed between 36" - 38" from top of stair tread
- Must not have any openings more than 19"

Guardrail Maintenance

- Know the best type of guardrail for your construction project
- Inspect and replace any missing or broken railing pieces immediately
- When maintaining guardrails, be sure another fall protection system is in place to prevent a fall

Guardrails are one of the most common types of fall protection along leading edges and walkways. Making sure they are installed correctly will help keep those using them safer and protected against the most common injury in construction.

Guardrails

Take Home Point:

Guardrails are the most common type of fall protection used along leading edges and walkways. Make sure they are built properly and maintained regularly to prevent falls and injury.

Date: _____

Safety Leader: _____

Crew Members:

Looking for a way to track and maintain your employee records? Scan the QR code for more information

