

## SAFETY NEWSLETTER

SELF INSURED WORKER'S COMPENSATION FUND MEMBERS

MARCH 2017

### MIOSHA Fall Protection Update and Hazards 22 Fatalities 2016

In 2016, Michigan had an unprecedented amount of workplace fatalities, in total, 22 workers were killed due to falls. A total of 44 Workers lost their lives in 2016, all of which could have been prevented. To raise awareness of fall hazards and provide employers and employees from around the state with resources to prevent injuries and deaths by falls, MIOSHA will be launching a fall prevention campaign, including a new web-page that will be introduced soon.

The web-page will provide summaries of recent workplace fatalities caused by falls, fact sheets and tool box talks that can be used to help train employees on fall hazards, relevant MIOSHA standards for construction and general industry, free video streaming and video loan services, and more.

Incidents caused by falls can be anticipated and prevented. MIOSHA is urging all Michigan employers and employees to utilize and share these valuable resources to help stop falls and save the lives of Michigan's working men and women.

Source: MIOSHA News Letter



In my years of being involved in the Safety of Michigan Workers I have come to one conclusion that we as employers need to have solid and sound Written Programs, Training/Re-Training and Audit Process into place. Below you shall see some of the areas you should have into place per the MIOSHA/OSHA.

#### All Employers need to complete the following:

- Institute safe work practices.
- Review job specific fall hazards.
- Conduct fall hazard assessments.
- Ensure PPE is not damaged or defective.
- Certify that assessments have been done.
- Provide training to all required employees.
- Install engineering controls where possible.
- Institute administrative controls where possible.
- Control hazards using fall PPE as a last resort.

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There are Key Program Elements that we all need to have in our [Fall Protection Programs](#) they include:

- TRAINING
- SAFETY COMMITTEE (Active Safety Teams)
- FALL HAZARD ANALYSIS
- FALL HAZARD PREVENTION AND CONTROL
- INSPECTION AND CARE OF ALL FALL PROTECTION EQUIPMENT

#### TIPS FOR USING CONTRACTORS:

Remember, you control your facility or area!

- Review their procedures before starting the job!
- Determine their safety performance record!
- Determine who is in charge of their people!
- Determine how they will affect your employees!
- Protect your employees!

A solid "Fall Prevention Program" creates policies to be followed whenever an employee works at heights above Six feet. These guidelines should be established to provide a safe working environment, and to govern the use of fall protection measures and equipment.

Written procedures should outline uniform requirements designed to ensure that fall prevention training, operation, and practices are communicated to, and understood by, the affected employees (an affected employee is one that shall work in or around areas where fall hazards are present).



#### MIOSHA News Release, March 2017

##### MIOSHA Launches Fall Prevention Campaign

Falls are the number one cause of workplace deaths in Michigan, especially in the construction and tree trimming industries.

In 2016, MIOSHA investigated 44 worker deaths. Half of those were fall-related. And on January 11, Michigan experienced the first fatal fall of 2017. All of these deaths were preventable.

As part of an effort to raise awareness of fall hazards and provide employers and employees from around the state with resources to prevent injuries and deaths by falls, MIOSHA has launched a new web page: [www.michigan.gov/stopfalls](http://www.michigan.gov/stopfalls).

The web page provides summaries of recent workplace fatalities caused by falls, fact sheets and tool box talks that can be used to help train employees on fall hazards, relevant MIOSHA standards for construction and general industry, free video streaming and video loan services, and more. Incidents caused by falls can be anticipated and prevented. MIOSHA is strongly urging all Michigan employers and employees to utilize and share these valuable resources to help stop falls and save the lives of Michigan's working men and women.

Employers can also contact MIOSHA's Consultation Education and Training Division to schedule a free MIOSHA inspection with no citations or penalties, or receive onsite education and training to help identify and correct fall and other safety and health hazards in the workplace. Request a visit by calling 800-866-4674 or submit a request online.

MIOSHA is also initiating a year-long state emphasis program (SEP) to direct more enforcement and educational resources to prevent worker injuries and deaths from falls. While the SEP covers all industries, targeted inspections will focus on construction work and landscaping services, where fall fatalities were most prevalent in 2016.