MIOSHA Launches Comprehensive Campaign to Prevent Injuries and Deaths from Falls:

From 2013 to 2015, 20 Michigan workers lost their lives on the job due to falls. Twenty-two fall-related deaths occurred in 2016 alone, accounting for half of the 44 deaths MIOSHA investigated last year. And on January 11, Michigan experienced the first worker death of 2017 – also a fall.

In response to this unprecedented number, MIOSHA is launching a yearlong State Emphasis Program (SEP) and informational campaign to raise awareness of fall hazards, and educate employers and employees about the critical importance of fall prevention. While falls have historically been the leading cause of death in the construction industry – both in Michigan and the nation – 2016 also marked an increase in fall-related deaths in the state’s general industry, particularly among tree trimmers.

Michigan lost eight workers to tree trimming activities last year – four times the number of tree trimming-related deaths in both 2015 and 2014. To address this, MIOSHA also launched an initiative to increase awareness of the hazards of tree trimming operations and provide guidance to field staff doing inspections of tree trimmers. Continuing into 2017, MIOSHA field staff will be on the lookout for tree trimming operations during their travels. If a serious hazard is observed at a job-site, an inspection can be initiated on the spot. The agency is also outreaching to employers engaged in tree trimming and companies that contract tree trimming services, requesting they review and observe the work practices of employees and take steps to ensure safe methods are followed.

“Death by falls is a very concerning trend and one which MIOSHA is committed to addressing through increased enforcement and proactive outreach and collaboration with the employer community,” said MIOSHA Director Bart Pickelman.

Falls (Continued)

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, there were 4,385 total occupational fatalities nationwide across all industries in 2015 – the highest number since 2008. Of those, 937 occurred in the construction industry, with 364 deaths resulting from slips, trips and falls.

As part of MIOSHA’s SEP activities, the Agency will perform programmed inspections in construction and general industry, as well as partner with employers to take a stand against falls. In May, MIOSHA will participate in the federal OSHA National Safety Stand-Down to Prevent Falls in Construction – an especially relevant event this year. MIOSHA will also continue to outreach to green industry groups to promote awareness of the dangers of tree care operations and the importance of safety training.

MIOSHA is urging all employers and employees to be on high alert for fall hazards and to ensure the utmost level of safety when performing work at elevations. Together, we can stop falls and help ensure the safety of Michigan’s working men and women.

Fall Protection plays a Role in all parts of our Job Classifications today: Forestry, Sewer, Utility, Warehouses, Roofers, Steel Construction and Airports.
PART 45. FALL PROTECTION:

Note: MIOSHA Follows OSHA 1926.500

Rule 4501.

(1) The rules in this part set forth the minimum requirements and criteria for fall protection in construction workplaces, their applications, and definitions that are applicable to these rules.

(2) These rules do not apply where an employee is making an inspection, an investigation, or an assessment of workplace conditions before the actual start of construction work or after all construction work has been completed.

1926.502(d) "Personal fall arrest systems."

Personal fall arrest systems and their use shall comply with the provisions set forth below. Effective January 1, 1998, body belts are not acceptable as part of a personal fall arrest system.

1926.502(k) "Fall protection plan."

This option is available only to employees engaged in leading edge work, precast concrete erection work, or residential construction work (See 1926.501(b)(2), (b)(12), and (b)(13)) who can demonstrate that it is infeasible or it creates a greater hazard to use conventional fall protection equipment. The fall protection plan must conform to the following provisions.

1926.502(k)(1) The fall protection plan shall be prepared by a qualified person and developed specifically for the site where the leading edge work, precast concrete work, or residential construction work is being performed and the plan must be maintained up to date.

1926.502(k)(2) Any changes to the fall protection plan shall be approved by a qualified person.

1926.502(k)(3) A copy of the fall protection plan with all approved changes shall be maintained at the job site.

1926.502(k)(4) The implementation of the fall protection plan shall be under the supervision of a competent person.

1926.502(k)(5) The fall protection plan shall document the reasons why the use of conventional fall protection systems (guardrail systems, personal fall arrest systems, or safety net systems) are infeasible or why their use would create a greater hazard.

1926.502(k)(6) The fall protection plan shall include a written discussion of other measures that will be taken to reduce or eliminate the fall hazard for workers who cannot be provided with protection from the conventional fall protection systems. For example, the employer shall discuss the extent to which scaffolds, ladders, or vehicle mounted work platforms can be used to provide a safer working surface and thereby reduce the hazard of falling.

1926.502(k)(7) The fall protection plan shall identify each location where conventional fall protection methods cannot be used. These locations shall then be classified as controlled access zones and the employer must comply with the criteria in paragraph (g) of this section.

1926.502(k)(8) Where no other alternative measure has been implemented, the employer shall implement a safety monitoring system in conformance with 1926.502(h).

1926.502(k)(9) The fall protection plan must include a statement which provides the name or other method of identification for each employee who is designated to work in controlled access zones. No other employees may enter controlled access zones.

1926.502(k)(10) In the event an employee falls, or some other related, serious incident occurs, (e.g., a near miss) the employer shall investigate the circumstances of the fall or other incident to determine if the fall protection plan needs to be changed (e.g. new practices, procedures, or training) and shall implement those changes to prevent similar types of falls or incidents.

1926.503(a) "Training Program."

1926.503(a)(1) The employer shall provide a training program for each employee who might be exposed to fall hazards. The program shall enable each employee to recognize the hazards of falling and shall train each employee in the procedures to be followed in order to minimize these hazards.

1926.503(a)(2) The employer shall assure that each employee has been trained, as necessary, by a competent person qualified in the following areas:

1926.503(a)(2)(i) The nature of fall hazards in the work area;
1926.503(a)(2)(ii) The correct procedures for erecting, maintaining, disassembling, and inspecting the fall protection systems to be used;
1926.503(a)(2)(iii) The use and operation of guardrail systems, personal fall arrest systems, safety net systems, warning line systems, safety monitoring systems, controlled access zones, and other protection to be used;
1926.503(a)(2)(iv) The role of each employee in the safety monitoring system when this system is used;
1926.503(a)(2)(v) The limitations on the use of mechanical equipment during the performance of roofing work on low sloped roofs;
1926.503(a)(2)(vi) The correct procedures for the handling and storage of equipment and materials and the erection of overhead protection; and 1926.503(a)(2)(vii) The role of employees in fall protection plans;
1926.503(a)(2)(viii) The standards contained in this subpart 1926.503(b) "Certification of training."

1926.503(b)(1) The employer shall verify compliance with paragraph (a) of this section by preparing a written certification record. The written certification record shall contain the name or other identity of the employee trained, the date(s) of the training, and the signature of the person who conducted the training or the signature of the employer. If the employer relies on training conducted by another employer or completed prior to the effective date of this section, the certification record shall indicate the date the employer determined the prior training was adequate rather than the date of actual training.

References: MIOSHA & OSHA