

Firefighters guidance note #6-XX: Working at heights

Training requirements when working at heights at a construction project.

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Background

There are circumstances where fire department personnel are working at heights at a construction project.

Concerns/hazards

Firefighters who work at heights are exposed to the hazard of falling.

Actions for employers

Employers should:

- establish procedures to protect firefighters from the hazard of falls
- develop standard operating procedures/operating guidelines that address worker training, including who needs to take the ministry's Working at Heights training program

Working at heights training for construction projects

If a firefighter on a construction project performing work **will be exposed to the hazard of falling and is required by regulation to use certain types of fall protection**, the firefighter must complete a working at heights training program approved by the Ministry of Labour's Chief Prevention Officer.

You can find out more about [working at heights training](#) on the Ministry of Labour website.

Risks

There are times when fire personnel may be working at heights.

Examples of job functions which may involve working at heights, include:

- fire prevention
- inspection
- investigation
- pre-planning

Examples of situations which may involve working at heights, include:

- temporary structures/scaffolds
- unguarded openings or edges in the structure floor/roof
- unstable/unfinished work surfaces

Knowledge of major or unique construction projects in the community may assist firefighters in identifying unique situations that they may encounter and increase their situational awareness.

Applicable regulations, acts and standards

Read:

- [Occupational Health and Safety Act](#)
 - section 1 for definitions of “construction” and “project”
 - clause 25(2)(a) for providing information and instruction to a worker
 - clause 25(2)(h) for taking every precaution reasonable to protect workers
 - O. Reg. 213/91 - [Regulation for Construction Projects](#)
 - section 26 for hazards where fall protection must be used on a construction project
 - O. Reg. 297/13 - [Occupational Health and Safety Awareness and Training Regulation](#)
 - section 6 for when working at heights training is required on construction projects when using one of these methods of fall protection - travel restraint system, fall restricting system, fall arrest system, safety net, work belt, or safety belt
 - section 7 for information on approved working at heights training programs
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Related

[Working at Heights](#) information on the MOL Website

Guidance note 1-5 Life safety rope and equipment

Guidance note 4-11 Fall protection from elevating devices

Guidance note 6-4 Rope rescue

Guidance note 6-14 Safe roof operations

Guidance note 6-29 Prevention of falls from fire apparatus

This resource does not replace the *Occupational Health and Safety Act* (OHSA) and its regulations, and should not be used as or considered legal advice. Health and safety inspectors apply the law based on the facts in the workplace.