OSHA REGIONAL NOTICE

U.S. Department of Labor | Occupational Safety and Health Administration

DIRECTIVE NUMBER: **2015-03 (CPL 04)** **EFFECTIVE DATE:** **October 1, 2014**

SUBJECT: **Regional Emphasis Program for Fall Hazards in the Construction Industry.**

REGIONAL IDENTIFIER: **Philadelphia Region III**

ABSTRACT

Purpose: This notice continues a Regional Emphasis Program for Fall Hazards in the Construction Industry.

References: CPL 04-00-001 (Procedures for Approval of Local Emphasis Programs (LEPs))
CPL 02-00-025 (Scheduling System for Programmed Inspections)
CPL 02-00-150 (Field Operations Manual)

Cancellations: None.

State Impact: None.

Action Offices: All Area Offices in Region III.

Originating Office: Philadelphia Regional Office.

Contact: MaryAnn Garrahan, Regional Administrator
The Curtis Center, Suite 740 West
170 S. Independence Mall
Philadelphia, PA 19106-3309

By and Under the Authority of

MaryAnn Garrahan
Regional Administrator

TABLE OF CONTENTS

I. Purpose 3

II. Scope 3

III. References 3

IV. Expiration 3

V. Action Information 3
- A. Responsible Office 3
- B. Action Office 3
- C. Information Offices 3

VI. Action 3

VII. Background 3

VIII. Procedures 3
- A. Inspection register 4
- B. Site selection 4
- C. Complaints and referrals 4
- D. Fall protection specialist 5

IX. Recording in OIS 5

X. Evaluation 5

XI. Outreach 5

FALL HAZARDS IN CONSTRUCTION REP

I. Purpose. This notice continues an REP for fall hazards in the construction industry.

II. Scope. This notice applies to all Area Offices in Region III.

III. References. Procedures for Approval of Local Emphasis Programs (LEPs) (CPL 04-00-001), Scheduling System for Programmed Inspections (CPL 02.025), and the Field Operations Manual (CPL 02-00-150)

IV. Expiration. This notice expires on September 30, 2015.

V. Action Information.

A. Responsible Office: Philadelphia Regional Office
B. Action Office: All Area Offices in Region III
C. Information Office: Philadelphia Regional Office

VI. Action. OSHA compliance personnel shall ensure that the procedures contained in this directive are followed when conducting this REP. The Area Offices will implement the procedures described in section VIII of this Notice in response to imminent dangers or serious fall hazards that are identified on construction sites. The Area Directors shall use the REP as the basis for scheduling and conducting safety inspections of construction sites in addition to the Construction Inspection Targeting Application. The targeting and selection program is intended to be used on any construction site where fall hazards have been alleged and/or identified to initiate safety inspections. These inspections may be expanded to comprehensive inspections of multi-employer construction sites in accordance with the guidelines established in the FOM.

VII. Background. Construction has long been recognized as a high hazard industry and is one of the industries targeted in OSHA's Five Year Strategic Plan. Region III has experienced significant construction activity in recent years. Falls are the leading cause of death in construction. In 2013, there were 294 fall fatalities (284 falls to lower levels) out of 796 total fatalities in construction. It is believed through a local emphasis program that increases awareness and accelerates enforcement activity, fatalities and injuries can be reduced. It is also recognized that a tracking mechanism for these type inspections would prove beneficial in monitoring the area of fall hazards. In the past, many unprogrammed inspections have been conducted through CSHO self referrals, imminent danger complaints or accident investigations. This REP is designed to increase inspection activity, provide tracking, enhance expertise and formalize procedures.

VIII. Procedures. This REP will be conducted throughout Region III.

A. An inspection targeting system which encompasses identification of sites at the

beginning of the quarter and the random selection of sites is not practical. Hazards related to falls on construction sites are normally transient and of limited duration. This limits the practicality of targeting the site in advance. Therefore, inspections conducted under this REP would be initiated by several means: CSHO observance, formal and non-formal complaints, and referrals from other outside sources. The Area Director shall determine, as part of the annual plan, the projected number of inspections to be conducted under this REP during the fiscal year.

B. All work sites where fall hazards are observed by compliance officers will be selected for inspection under this REP. These sites shall include but shall not be limited to:

1. Structural steel erection sites where fall protection is not apparent and potential falls or related hazards exist;

2. Structural steel erection where fall protection for employees other than ironworkers is not apparent and potential falls or related hazards exist;

3. Structural steel erection where fall protection for ironworkers 15' or more above a lower level (in excess of 30' or two stories, whichever is less for employees working in controlled decking zones, and in excess of 30' for connectors) is not apparent and potential falls or related hazards exist;

4. Sites where fall protection for employees on scaffolds 10' or more above a lower level is not apparent;

5. Sites where fall protection for employees on walking/working surfaces 6' or more above a lower level is not apparent;

6. Other activities which constitute potential falls and no protective systems are in use such as erection of tanks, communication and broadcast towers, certain work on cranes and derricks, and activities where employees are working from elevations without fall protection.

When a job site with fall hazards is noted during travel, the CSHO will notify the supervisor with the name of the contractor (if known) and the location of the site. The supervisor will determine if the site has been inspected within the last 30 days. If the site has not been inspected within the last 30 days, permission will be given to inspect the site. If the site has been inspected within the last 30 days, an inspection will be authorized only if an imminent danger appears to be present, or at the Area Director's discretion. These inspections will normally be limited to the imminent danger situation and plain view items. The CSHO will remain at the site to observe the abatement procedures and/or to assist with abatement methods. CSHOs will record these inspections as referral inspections.

C. A large number of fall hazards are reported via referrals and complaints, both of a

formal and a non-formal nature. Formal complaints of fall hazards on construction sites will continue to be scheduled before programmed inspections. Non-formal complaints and referrals which would normally be handled by letters will be handled in accordance with paragraph VIII.B. above. Inspection history and the scope of the inspection will be handled in the same manner.

D. Each Area Office shall designate at least one fall protection specialist. The specialist is responsible for staying abreast of fall protection issues and interpretations. Specialists should also develop a current file on abatement methodology. The Area Offices (cumulatively) will provide training and have a combined meeting with the specialists in order to maintain fall protection expertise. The specialists should be included in first response situations for accidents and imminent dangers (where possible) and provide consultation to other CSHOs on related matters.

IX. Recording in OIS. The OIS identifier code to be used in OIS will be "**FALL**".

X. Evaluation. Not later than October 31, 2015 the Area Director will prepare a written evaluation of this REP in the format specified by OSHA Instruction CPL 04-00-001.

XI. Outreach.

During the course of this REP the Area Director will ensure an outreach program will continue during the enforcement phase of the program. Outreach activities will be directed to reach as many stake holders in the Area Office's jurisdiction as is practicable. The purpose of the outreach will be to inform interested parties of the existence, purpose and objectives of this regional emphasis program as well as promote employer knowledge and employee awareness of the hazards and acceptable methods of abatement to prevent illness and injuries. The method of outreach is at the Area Director's discretion and can consist of one or more of the following components:

1. Broadcast mail-outs or program information.
2. Stakeholder meetings.
3. Targeted training sessions.
4. Presentations to the affected group(s).
5. Media press release or e-blast

Distribution: Regional and Area Offices
Regional Solicitor
Directorate of Enforcement Programs
Directorate of Construction