OSHA REGIONAL NOTICE

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR **Occupational Safety and Health Administration**

DIRECTIVE NUMBER: 2017-03 (CPL 04)	**EFFECTIVE DATE:** October 1, 2016
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 02.025 (Scheduling System for Programmed Inspections)
CPL 02-00-160 (Field Operations Manual)

Cancellations: None.

State Impact: None.

Action Offices: All Area Offices in Region III.

Originating Office: Philadelphia Regional Office.

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By and Under the Authority of

Richard Mendelson
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....5
- 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 (CPL 2-0.102A)), Scheduling System for Programmed Inspections (CPL 2.25), and the Field Operations Manual (CPL 02-00-150)

IV. Expiration. This notice expires on September 30, 2017.

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 U-Tenn/CRA system. 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. Accidents relating to falls from elevations are one of the leading causes of serious injuries and fatalities. It is believed through a local emphasis program that increases awareness and accelerates enforcement activity, 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 through 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, 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 at the Area Director's discretion. The CSHO will remain at the site to observe the abatement procedures and/or to assist with abatement methods.

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, 2017 the Area Director will prepare a written evaluation of this REP in the format specified by OSHA Instruction CPL 04-00-001 (CPL 2-0.102A, Appendix A).

XI. Outreach. Each Area Director will continue to conduct outreach activities intended to reach as many stakeholders in the area office jurisdiction as is practicable. Outreach activities will be for the purposes of informing interested parties of the existence, purpose and objectives of this local emphasis program as well as to promote employer and employee awareness of fall hazards and acceptable methods for preventing falls to lower levels and for the prevention of injuries resulting from fall hazards. It is expected that outreach activities will continue throughout the duration of this LEP.

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