



# OSHA REGIONAL INSTRUCTION

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Occupational Safety and Health Administration

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**DIRECTIVE NUMBER:** 2019-01

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** 10/1/2018

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**SUBJECT:** Regional Emphasis Program – Fall Hazards in Construction

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**REGIONAL IDENTIFIER:** Region 2

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## ABSTRACT

**Purpose:** This regional instruction continues the implementation of the Regional Emphasis Program for Fall Hazards in Construction.

**References:** CPL 02-00-160, Field Operations Manual (FOM), 8/2/2016.  
CPL 04-00-002, Procedures for Approval of Local Emphasis Programs (LEPs), 11/13/2018.  
CPL 02-00-025, Scheduling System for Programmed Inspections, 01/04/1995.  
CPL 02-00-051 Enforcement Exemptions and Limitations under the Appropriations Act, 5/28/1998.

**Cancellations:** This Instruction cancels the Regional Emphasis Program for Fall Hazards in Construction, 2018-01(CPL 2)

**Expiration:** This instruction expires September 30, 2023.  
EXCEPTION: Any inspection begun prior to September 30, 2023 may continue until its conclusion.

**State Impact:** None

**Action Offices:** All Area Offices in Region II

**Originating Office:** Office of Regional Administrator

**Contact:** Office of Regional Administrator (212) 337-2378  
201 Varick Street, Rm.670  
New York, NY 10014

By and Under the Authority of

Handwritten signature of Robert D. Kulick in black ink.

For Robert D. Kulick  
Regional Administrator

- I. Purpose: This regional instruction continues the implementation of the Regional Emphasis Program (REP) for fall hazards in construction. This REP is designed to increase inspection activity at construction sites where potential fall hazards exist. It is difficult under routine planning guidelines to identify these sites and address these hazards because of the short term of this work and transient nature of these companies who perform the work.
- II. Scope: This Instruction applies to all Area Offices in Region II
- III. Expiration: This instruction expires September 30, 2023.  
EXCEPTION: Any inspection begun prior to September 30, 2023 may continue until its conclusion.
- IV. Background: Falls from elevations are one of the leading causes of serious injuries and fatalities in construction. Bureau of Labor Statistics reports that for 2017, there was 971 fatalities in construction, of which 386 or 40% were related to slips and trips and falls. In FY 2018, in the area covered under Region II jurisdiction, there were 36 work related fatalities in construction, of which 20 or 55% were from falls in construction. This REP aims to increase the regulated community's awareness of and compliance with fall protection standards currently in effect in order to reduce fall protection injuries and fatalities.

An inspection targeting system which encompasses identification of sites at the beginning of an inspection year or cycle is not practical. Hazards related to falls on construction sites are normally transient and of limited duration. This limits the practicability of targeting the site in advance. This REP creates a more effective targeting procedure.

This emphasis program supports the DOL objective to secure safe and healthful working conditions for America's workers by implementing the OSHA Strategic Plan objective to target the most hazardous worksites for inspection by making efforts to prioritize its limited resources for inspections, compliance assistance and outreach efforts on specific industries that routinely experience injury, illness, or fatalities above the national average.

- V. Action: The Area Director shall ensure that the procedure outlined in the instruction is followed during the effective period of this instruction. This instruction is not to conflict with inspection priorities as established in the Field Operations Manual (FOM).

When an inspection is not conducted because the employer has refused entry, a warrant shall be sought in accordance with the current procedures for handling such refusals.

VI. Procedures: The following procedures will be used in targeting, scheduling and tracking of inspections conducted under this REP.

Inspections conducted under this REP would be initiated by several means: CSHO observation, formal and non-formal complaints and referrals from outside sources.

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 activities for all employees except for connectors and employees working in controlled decking zones (CDZs) where the use of fall protection systems is not apparent and where potential falls hazards exist greater than 15 feet;
2. Structural steel erection activities for connectors and employees working in CDZs where the use of fall protection systems is not apparent and where potential falls hazards exist greater than 30 feet;
3. Sites where scaffolds are observed without adequate guardrail systems and/or personal fall arrest systems in use for potential fall hazards greater than 10 feet;
4. Aerial lifts are observed without adequate guardrail systems or personal fall arrest systems in use for potential fall hazards;
5. Sites where open sided floors or floor openings are observed and potential exposure to fall hazards exists;
6. Roofs where no fall protection systems are in use for potential fall hazards.
7. Other activities which constitute potential fall hazards and no protective systems are in use, such as sign installation and maintenance, water towers, sites where suspension scaffolds are in use, and other activities where employees are working from elevations or work platforms 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. These inspections will normally be limited to fall hazards. These inspections may be expanded to comprehensive inspections in accordance with the guidelines established in the FOM. The CSHO will remain at the site to observe the abatement procedures and/or to assist with abatement methods.

A large number of fall hazards are reported via referrals and formal and non-formal complaints. 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 evaluated to identify if the alleged conditions include criteria listed above. As per the FOM, if the information in the complaint or referral concerns an establishment and an alleged hazard covered by a local, regional, or national emphasis program and there are reasonable grounds to believe that a violation or hazard exists, the Area Office is authorized to conduct an inspection.

Each Area Office shall ensure that they have an adequate number of staff trained to address fall protection issues. The training shall include identification of the hazard, methods of abatement, regulations and guidance documents addressing fall hazards, OSHA directives, and letters of interpretation.

Establishments identified for inspection may fall within the scope of the current Appropriations Act. If so, inspection activities must be done and completed in accordance with the directive, CPL 02-00-051, *Enforcement Exemptions and Limitations under the Appropriations Act, 5/28/1998*.

VII. OIS Coding:

- A. In the Inspection Report, for any programmed inspection, under the Inspection Field, in the Inspection Types tab, the initiating type will be marked as “programmed planned” and in the Inspection Emphasis Programs Field under Regional Emphasis Program select “FALL”.
- B. In the Inspection Report, for any unprogrammed inspection (i.e. Accidents, Complaints, Referrals from outside Agencies, Fatalities/Catastrophes), conducted in conjunction with this REP, under the Inspection Field, in the Inspection Types tab, the initiating type will be marked with the appropriate unplanned activity and in the Inspection Emphasis Programs Field under Regional Emphasis Program select “FALL”.
- C. In the Inspection Report, for all programmed inspections such as other NEP/REP/LEP’s conducted in conjunction with an REP inspection under this initiative, under the Inspection Field, in the Inspection Types tab, the initiating type will be marked “program planned” and in the Inspection Emphasis Programs Field select all NEP/REP OIS codes applicable to the inspection.
- D. Complaints and referrals from outside sources, such as employees, Fire Department, Buildings Department are coded as unprogrammed inspections on the Inspection Report. Referrals made as a result of CSHO observation are coded programmed inspections on the Inspection Report.

- E. For any unprogrammed inspection under this REP, in the Unprogrammed Activity Report, in the Program Info Field, under REP, select "Fall".

VIII. Outreach

During the course of this renewal REP/LEP the Area Director will continue to ensure that the ongoing outreach program will remain in effect during the enforcement phase of the program. Outreach activities will continue to be directed to reach as many stake holders in the Area Office's jurisdiction as is practicable. Stakeholders which include such members as professional trade organizations, the ASSP, AIHA, Unions, and Chambers of Commerce, will be notified and the purpose of the outreach will be to inform the interested parties of the existence, purpose and objectives of this 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

IX. Program Evaluation:

- A. Abatement documentation/verification will be submitted to or otherwise collected by the Area Office for all violations. The abatement information must be included in the case file in a timely manner.
- B. The RA will ensure that each Region II area office participating in the REP/LEP will prepare and submit to EP a program report. The program report is to be conducted at the midpoint and completion of each REP/LEP. At the RA's discretion, additional reports may be required, based on the length, complexity, and coverage of the program. The midpoint assessment will take place no later than the end of the fiscal year following the calendar midpoint between the program effective and expiration dates (e.g., 2 ½ years into a 5 year program). The midpoint assessment will allow for revisions to the LEP where necessary, along with an assessment of whether continuation of the LEP is appropriate.
  1. The program report will, at a minimum, address whether the LEP advances OSHA's goals and initiatives. The program report will address, as appropriate, both quantitative and qualitative measures. Types of measures that may be considered include:
    - a. The number of employees and/or establishments impacted by outreach activities;
    - b. Number of hazards abated;

- c. The number of workers removed from hazards;
- d. Impact on illness and injury rates (note: due to lag in available BLS data, this measure may not be suited for shorter termed programs);
- e. Reductions in the number of complaints or severe injury reports within affected industries, and;
- f. Any indices that relate directly to measures included in the DOL Strategic Plan, the OSHA Operating Plan, and/or additional goals of the LEP.