



# OSHA REGIONAL INSTRUCTION

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Occupational Safety and Health Administration

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**DIRECTIVE NUMBER:** CPL 2 02-00-024A | **EFFECTIVE DATE:** October 1, 2019

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**SUBJECT:** Regional Emphasis Program for Fall Hazards in Non-Construction Industries

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**REGIONAL IDENTIFIER:** Region VI

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## ABSTRACT

- Purpose:** This Instruction renews a Regional Emphasis Program (REP) for fall hazards in non-construction industries (With the exception of NAICS 23XXXX).
- Scope:** This Instruction applies to all worksites in Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, and Texas, and those worksites in New Mexico that are under Federal OSHA jurisdiction.
- References:**  
OSHA Instruction CPL 02-00-025  
OSHA Instruction CPL 02-00-051  
OSHA Instruction CPL 02-00-163  
OSHA Instruction CSP 03-02-003  
OSHA Instruction CPL 04-00-002  
Fall Protection web pages found at [www.osha.gov](http://www.osha.gov)  
BLS 2017 Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries
- Cancellations:** Region VI Regional Notice CPL 2 02-00-024 dated October 1, 2018, Regional Emphasis Program for Fall Hazards in General Industry.
- State Impact:** Region VI 21(d) Consultation Project Offices in Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, and Texas will provide outreach, consultation services, and training to affected employers as requested.
- Action Offices:**  
Region VI Area Offices  
Region VI Consultation Project Offices  
Dallas Regional Office
- Information Offices:** New Mexico Occupational Health and Safety Bureau
- Originating Office:** Dallas Regional Office

**Contact:** Assistant Regional Administrator for  
Enforcement Programs  
525 Griffin St., Room 602  
Dallas, TX 75202  
972-850-4145

By and Under the Authority of

ERIC S. HARBIN  
Acting Regional Administrator

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- I. **Purpose.** This Instruction renews an enforcement initiative to prevent deaths among workers in all non-construction industries focusing on the hazards of falls from elevations.
- II. **Scope.** This Instruction applies to all worksites in Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, and Texas, and those worksites in New Mexico that are under Federal OSHA jurisdiction.
- III. **References.**
  - A. OSHA Instruction CPL 04-00-002, Procedures for Approval of Local Emphasis Programs (“LEPs”), November 13, 2018, or current update.
  - B. OSHA Instruction CPL 02-00-163, Field Operations Manual (FOM), September 13, 2019, or current update.
  - C. OSHA Instruction CPL 02-00-025, Scheduling System for Programmed Inspections, January 4, 1995, or current update.
  - D. OSHA Instruction CPL 02-00-051, Enforcement Exemptions and Limitations under the Appropriations Act, May 28, 1998, or current update.
  - E. OSHA Instruction CSP 03-02-003, OSHA Strategic Partnership Program for Worker Safety and Health, November 6, 2013, or current update.
  - F. General Industry Walking Working Surfaces and Personal Fall Protection Systems Final Rule found at [www.osha.gov](http://www.osha.gov)
  - G. U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2017 Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries
- IV. **Expiration.** This Instruction expires December 31, 2022, but may be renewed as necessary.
- V. **Background.**

The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) 2017, Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries (CFOI) indicated that 366 workers died nationwide as a result of falls to a lower level. The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) cumulative report for Region VI indicates that during calendar years 2016 and 2017, 116 workers not working in construction suffered fatal injuries as a result of a fall event. Employees in non-construction industries are exposed to falls from ladders, scaffolding, aerial equipment, trees, drilling rigs, roofs, storage vessels and racks, elevated work platforms, and other elevated walking/working surfaces. Many of these activities are visible from public right-of-way (i.e. in plain view).

Region VI initiated this program to reduce fatality events throughout the non-construction industries and to solicit the cooperation of the non-construction industries to achieve better and continuously effective safety and health programs. Between January 2016 and September 20, 2019, Region VI performed 411 inspections under this programs. Twenty-eight were the result of fatality events with an additional 57 the result of employer-reported referrals.

OSHA will employ a number of tools to address this issue, including enforcement, outreach, training, on-site consultation, partnerships, alliances, and the Voluntary Protection Program (VPP).

The provisions of OSHA Instruction CPL 02-00-051 (CPL 2-1.51J), Enforcement Exemptions and Limitations under the Appropriations Act, Section XI, and Enforcement Guidance for Small Employers shall apply where appropriate.

**VI. Enforcement.**

A. Hazards. According to BLS data (referenced above), falls from elevations have been, and continue to be, one of the major causes of workplace fatalities in non-construction industries.

B. This Instruction is provided because of the immediate need to address unsafe working conditions in non-construction industries that contribute to workplace fatalities and, more importantly, to minimize or entirely eliminate them.

The targeted industries are all SIC Codes or NAICS Codes with the exception of NAICS 23XXXX (construction).

C. Scheduling of Inspections.

1. The Area Director will instruct trained CSHOs to be alert for employees exposed to fall hazards in non-construction industries throughout the Area Office's jurisdiction. Inspections will take place in instances where the Compliance Officer observes employees in plain view and exposed to fall hazards.

2. Before initiating enforcement activities, the CSHO will determine if an inspection is limited by the Enforcement Exemptions and Limitations under the Appropriations Act.

3. Exemptions. If an employer and/or contractor are a Voluntary Protection Program (VPP) employer or have passed an annual OSHA verification inspection, the terms of the VPP and/or partnership agreement will be followed.

If employees in plain view and exposed to fall hazards are observed by a CSHO, a limited scope inspection will be conducted to address the "plain view" hazards (including appropriate records review). A verification inspection will not be conducted until the Area Director has been consulted.

A list of current partnership sites within the Area office jurisdiction will be maintained and made available for CSHO review.

- D. Scope of REP Inspection. Inspections under this emphasis program will be limited to the hazards which are in plain view including those which caused the CSHO to identify the worksite. If the CSHO's evaluation indicates that a more comprehensive inspection should be completed at the worksite, they will request authority to expand the inspection from the Area Director or the Assistant Area Director. In determining whether to approve the expansion, the Area Director or Assistant Area Director will follow the FOM and current agency policy. CSHOs will make appropriate entries into their case file regarding the scope of the inspection. Plain view health hazards, such as but not limited to, silica, lead, noise, and other recognized health hazards will be evaluated. If necessary, a health referral will be made.

The CSHO will evaluate, as appropriate, all on-site employers through inspection, observation, photographs, video footage, measurements, and interviews of management and employees.

- E. Citations. Citations for violations shall be issued in accordance with the FOM.
- F. Interface with Unprogrammed Activity. Reports of imminent danger, fatalities, catastrophes, complaints, and referrals shall be scheduled as unprogrammed inspections, and shall be inspected in accordance with the applicable provisions of the FOM.
- G. Inspection Resources. Only trained Compliance Officers with experience in fall protection requirements shall be assigned to conduct inspections under this REP. All OSHA personnel participating in this REP must be familiar with the policies and procedures described in this instruction.
- H. CSHO Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). CSHOs will use personal protective equipment suitable for the targeted industry. PPE will include, at a minimum, a hard hat, safety glasses with side shields, safety shoes/boots (with metatarsal guards as necessary), hearing protection, and high visibility apparel/vest.
- I. Relationship to Other Programs. Area Offices will continue to schedule worksites for inspection under other non-construction industry targeting plans [e.g. national emphasis programs NEPs] that maximize the best utilization of area office resources. These inspections will be conducted according to the FOM and the instructions for the applicable emphasis programs.

## VII. Recording in OIS.

- A. Enforcement Inspections: Enforcement inspections completed under this initiative will be coded:

In OIS in the Inspection Type sub-tab:

1. Initiating Type will be coded “Programmed Planned” with the following exception. Any inspections conducted as a result of a complaint, referral, or fatality/catastrophe will be coded as the appropriate “unprogrammed” activity.
  2. Local Emphasis Program will be coded **GIFALL** for all programmed and unprogrammed inspections.
  3. Additional Codes will be coded with any applicable additional codes.
- B. Enforcement Interventions: Enforcement Interventions completed under this initiative, including partnerships, alliances, Voluntary Protection Programs, and other interventions, will be coded:

In OIS in the Task sub-tab, Task Details, Emphasis Areas as follows:

1. Local Emphasis Programs will be coded **GIFALL**.
  2. Other Emphasis Areas will include any applicable additional codes and the codes specific to the general industry activity covered by the inspection per VII.A.4.
- C. Consultation Visits: Consultation Visits completed under this initiative will be coded:
1. In OIS on the Request Form CONS-20:
    - a. Local Emphasis will be coded **GIFALL**.
    - b. Field 18 will include any applicable additional codes and the codes specific to the general industry activity covered by the inspection per VII.A.4.
  2. In OIS on the Visit Form CONS-30:
    - a. Local Emphasis will be coded **GIFALL**.
    - b. Field 22 will include any applicable additional codes and the codes specific to the general industry activity covered by the inspection per VII.A.4.
- D. Consultation Interventions: Consultation Interventions completed under this initiative will be coded:

In OIS on the Consultation Intervention Form CONS-66:

1. Local Emphasis will be coded **GIFALL**.

2. Field 15 will include any applicable additional codes and the codes specific to the general industry activity covered by the inspection per VII.A.4.
- E. Area Offices, Consultation Projects, and the Regional Office shall periodically check their OIS databases to verify accuracy of the data for the initiative.

**VIII. Outreach.**

All REPs must contain an outreach component that must be ongoing throughout the effective period of the program. These outreach efforts should be coordinated with or include the consultation program for that area. The method of outreach is at the Area Directors 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)

**IX. Partnerships and Alliances.**

In the event outreach efforts result in the interest in developing an alliance or partnership, the Area Director will insure that these efforts conform to current National and Regional Policy.

**X. Evaluation.**

The Regional office will evaluate the impact of the REP at the midpoint of the program as well as at the expiration. Information and data from OIS along with input from the Area Directors will be used in program reports. Elements to be considered in the program reports are contained in OSHA Instruction CPL 04-00-002.