

### Why are Falls a Problem for Construction?

Falls accounted for 24 (32%) of the 75 deaths in the construction industry in Kentucky from 2008-2015. Of these deaths, 12 were due to nonuse of personal fall arrest systems, and 5 were due to improper guarding of floor holes and openings. **Falls accounted for 39% of all construction deaths in 2015 in the US.**<sup>1</sup>



### The following are fall deaths that occurred in Kentucky:

**Case 1:** Two roofers were roofing a one-story residence, preparing to lay the anchors down, when the wind gusted, causing the roofers to fall from the roof. One roofer landed in a ditch, and the other roofer fell on top of him. The first roofer was killed.

**Case 2:** A foreman was installing sheets of insulation on an unfinished roof when he disconnected his personal fall arrest safety line because it was caught in the decking. After disconnecting the safety line, he engaged in a verbal altercation with another subcontractor on the ground floor. Distracted, he fell 25 feet to the ground below and died as a result of his injuries.

**Case 3:** A construction laborer was carrying a long metal beam while installing stairs on a home remodeling project. As he was walking backward, he stepped and fell into a hole in the floor, landing 8 feet below in the basement. The laborer suffered head trauma and succumbed to his injuries at a hospital.

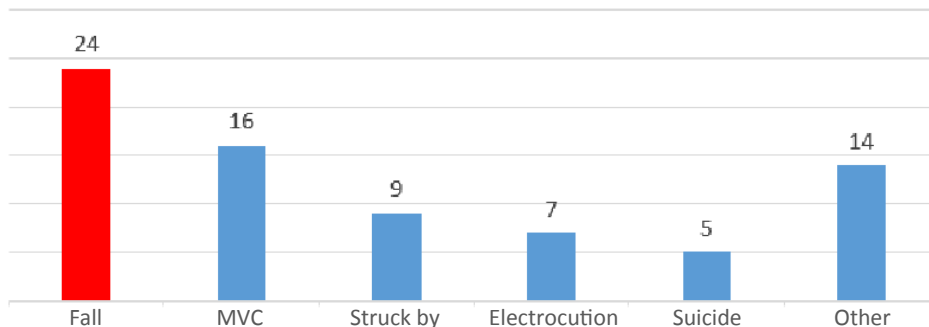
### Requirements:

- A guardrail system, safety net system, or personal fall arrest system must be used by all employees working at a height of 6 feet or higher. See [1926.501\(b\)\(1\)](#)
- Employees must be protected from falling more than 6 feet into floor holes and skylights by personal fall arrest systems, covers, or guardrail systems erected around such openings. See [1926.501\(b\)\(4\)\(i\)](#)

### Recommendations:

- Perform a pre-job hazard analysis to identify potential fall hazards; plan control measures accordingly.
- Prior to beginning a job, ensure that all necessary personal fall protection systems are available and in safe working order.
- Ensure training of proper PPE usage.
- When using a personal fall arrest system, ensure that the safety line is connected at all times and is secured to a qualified anchoring point.
- Maintain awareness of your environment whenever carrying supplies or equipment. Always keep sight of your surroundings.

Construction Deaths in Kentucky by Incident Type, 2010-2015



## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Name of Resource	Resource Description	Resource Link
Preventing Falls in Construction Workbook. <i>KY FACE Program</i>	An interactive workbook which explores the leading four causes of fatal falls in construction. The Workbook contains real life case scenarios and quizzes for training purposes.	<a href="http://www.mc.uky.edu/kiprc/programs/face/training/files/FallsWorkbook-WithAnswerKey.pdf">http://www.mc.uky.edu/kiprc/programs/face/training/files/FallsWorkbook-WithAnswerKey.pdf</a>
National Safety Stand-Down to Prevent Falls in Construction <i>OSHA</i>	A joint effort by government-labor-management to address falls in construction. The website features a host of training materials and safety resources, including information on the annual Safety Stand-Down.	<a href="http://stopconstructionfalls.com/">http://stopconstructionfalls.com/</a>
eTools: Falls in Construction <i>OSHA</i>	An interactive online information portal detailing the leading four causes of fatal falls in construction.	<a href="https://www.osha.gov/SLTC/etools/construction/falls/mainpage.html">https://www.osha.gov/SLTC/etools/construction/falls/mainpage.html</a>
Case Report: Hispanic Roofer's Fall Protection Failed Causing Him to Fall 29.91 Feet to His Death (#14KY030) <i>KY FACE Program</i>	An investigative report detailing the death of a worker who was working from a steep rooftop when his safety rope snapped, causing him to fall.	<a href="http://www.mc.uky.edu/kiprc/projects/KOSHS/face/data/Reports/14KY030-Final.pdf">http://www.mc.uky.edu/kiprc/projects/KOSHS/face/data/Reports/14KY030-Final.pdf</a>

For additional training materials and information regarding Kentucky FACE, please visit the program website at:  
<http://www.mc.uky.edu/kiprc/face>

### Sources:

<sup>1</sup>"Commonly Used Statistics." *OSHA*, <https://www.osha.gov/oshstats/commonstats.html>. Accessed April 19, 2017.

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