

This newsletter is to inform you of recent changes & trends regarding health and safety.

The Turning Point is a monthly newsletter covering topics from various industries and sectors. The Turning Point will respond to your inquiries and inform you of current services and updates regarding

Raising the Standard Consulting Inc.

RAISING THE STANDARD CONSULTING

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CONSULTANT ARTICLE FEATURE

NATHAN BROWN, CIT & CHST

NATHAN HAS BEEN LIVING IN HAWAII FOR THE PAST 15 YEARS AND WORKING AS A SAFETY TRAINER, AUDITOR AND ONSITE REPRESENTATIVE FOR 8. DURING THIS TIME GROWING IN HIS KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE IN THE CONSTRUCTION SAFETY FIELDS. THROUGH RECEIVING & CONDUCTING TRAININGS, EXPERIENCES IN THE FIELD AND STATISTICS ACROSS THE INDUSTRY, FALL HAZARDS AND THEIR SPECIFIC, CUSTOMIZABLE CONTROLS HAS BECOME A HIGHLIGHTED POINT OF INTEREST, LEADING TO HIS CHOICE OF TOPIC FOR THIS ARTICLE.



DEFYING GRAVITY: THE HIDDEN DANGERS OF FALLS AT LOW HEIGHTS IN CONSTRUCTION

Falls remain the undisputed leading cause of death in construction, accounting for 38.% of construction fatalities in 2022 according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. At this point most workers & construction management teams know that working above 6 feet without fall protection is unsafe and against OSHA & EM

385-1-1 general construction regulation, unfortunately sometimes that's all people consider when working at height.

Too often as soon workers are above 6 feet they're given just a harness,

lanyard and anchor point to tie off and not much consideration is given to if the equipment being used is right for the work being done and the hazard being faced.

However, looking at a study from 2015 titled "How High is Deadly", compiled from 5 years of accidents, injuries & fatalities on construction sites, we see that falls from a variety of heights are still dangerous.

to be a larger number of people and chances for accidents to occur. Another reason is that because it's such a common height to do work, people are more casual about the work, getting complacent about working at height and are more likely to make mistakes because of it. A third reason is the danger that exists when using a conventional 6ft energy absorbing lanyard while working within those 10 feet.



As you can see the largest percentage of deaths from falls isn't in the 30ft + range, even though that includes any number of feet above 30. It's actually in the 5ft zone of 11-15ft. If we open that up to 11-20ft, those 10 feet account for 37.1% of all deaths from falls on construction sites.

There are multiple reasons for this, the first being that it's a common height for construction work to happen, so there's going

Determining Fall Distance

Fig.1

The calculation used to determine fall distance may vary slightly from publication to publication, but they are generally similar, containing four factors. Whenever determining fall distance with a standard, non-retracting lanyard measure it from the **anchor** to the nearest level below

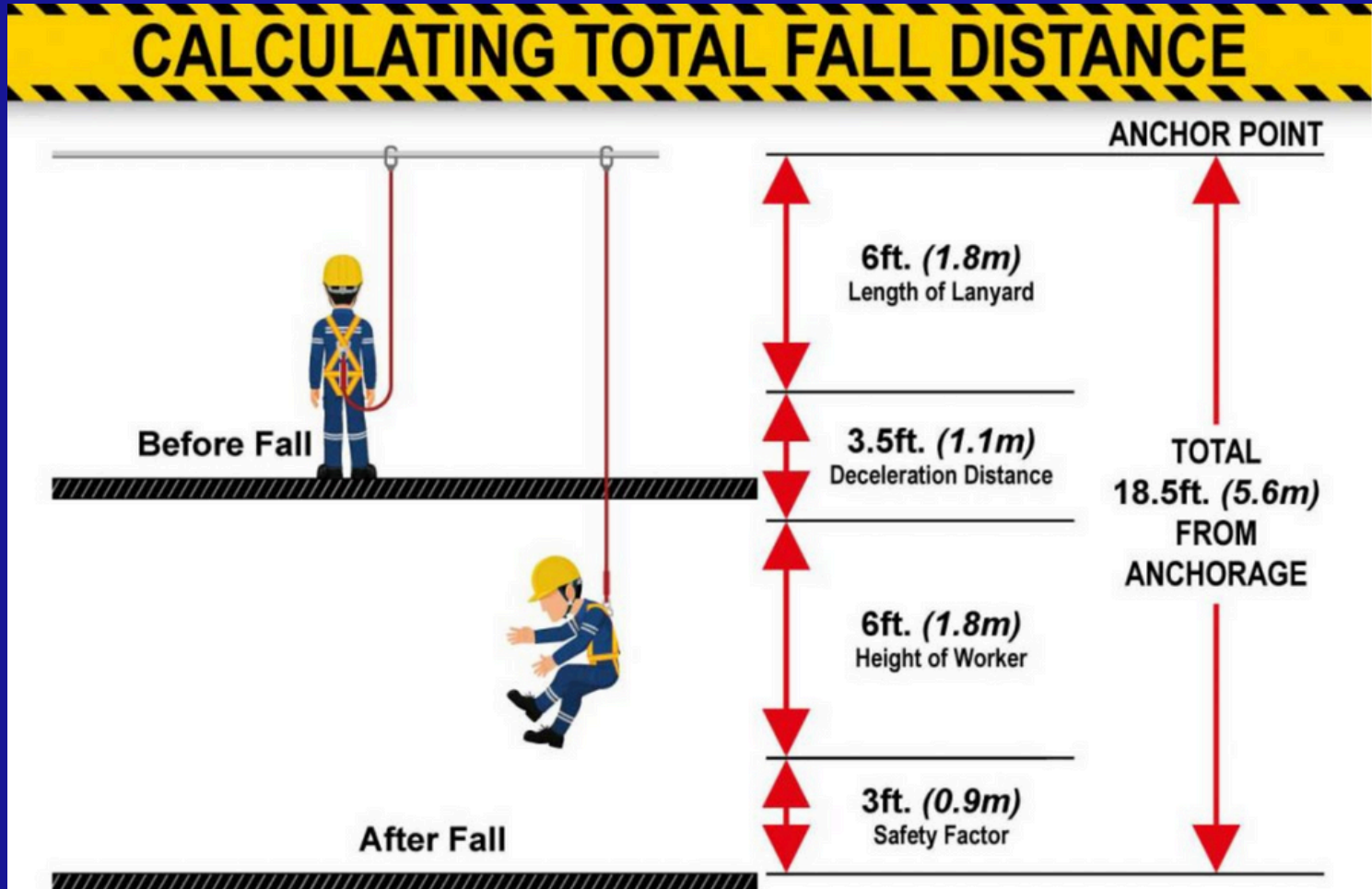
- Worker Height: Usually 6ft. is used for

the sake of a round number, can be customized for individual workers.

- Lanyard Length: **6ft.**
- Deceleration Device: **3.5ft.** is the distance prescribed by OSHA, be sure to check your lanyard
- Safety Factor: Between **2** and **3** feet, to ensure that during the stretch or bounce of the lanyard doesn't cause the worker's feet to hit the ground/lower surface.

surroundings than they would be if they realized how unprotected they are.

Another height to focus on from that study is below six feet, which is under OSHA & EM 385-1-1's threshold for construction, is still responsible for 8.2% of fall fatalities. With falls being responsible for just over a third of all



What this means is that, if a worker is tied off with a standard nonretracting lanyard less than ~18ft from the ground or nearest obstruction to them they may still hit it, despite believing they were protected while working, creating a fall distance danger zone of false confidence in the protective systems. This is especially dangerous due to how people act when they think they're protected, being less careful and considerate of their

deaths on construction sites that means falls from below 6ft are responsible for ~2.75% of all deaths on construction sites. As with working in the fall distance danger zone, complacency that can come from working at heights below this benchmark has dire consequences.

Fall protection isn't a binary thing like

Fig. 2

a lightswitch on or off, either protected or not. The specific heights the work is happening at, the material of the ground or nearest lower level, any obstructions, anchor point location, worker size, specific work being done and many other factors must be considered in order to select the correct options and keep workers protected. Fall protection also isn't as easy as flicking a lightswitch. There are so many different pieces of equipment that interact with each other in different ways. Any workers relying on a form of fall protection to keep them safe must be trained on the equipment, its uses and especially its limitations. Without knowing those limitations a worker can make dangerous assumptions about their safety & protection.

Stay Safe. Stay Secure. Protect Yourself and Your Workers at Every Height.

Image sources

Fig. 1 *Fatal occupational injuries incurred by workers in the construction industry due to falls to a lower level, 2011-2015.* Bureau of Labor Statistics Injuries, Illnesses, and Fatalities. (IFF). Accessed Aug. 7th 2025, <https://stopconstructionfalls.com/training/infographics/>

Fig. 2 *What are Fall Arrest Systems & How do they Work,* Reece Safety, Andy Graham Nov. 2023. Accessed Aug. 7th 2025, <https://www.reecesafety.co.uk/what-is-a-fall-arrest-system/>

Nathan Brown, CIT & CHST

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LEGAL HURDLES OF SAFETY HARMONIZATION

As Canada moves closer to a historic national safety harmonization, legal experts are urging employers and safety leaders to prepare for sweeping changes that could finally end decades of regulatory confusion—but not without significant challenges along the way.

Matthew Badrov, a partner at Littler LLP specializing in management-side labour and employment law with a focus on occupational health and safety, says the push to harmonize workplace safety regulations across provinces is a big challenge that could have a profound impact on employers, especially those operating in multiple jurisdictions.

The Legal Hurdle: Provincial Patchwork

“The largest hurdle traditionally has been that our labour and employment laws—and the Occupational Health and Safety Act included—are provincially regulated,” Badrov explains. “We’ve had province-specific laws for decades. It’s a bit of a heavy legislative lift to get the time and resources together to try and harmonize.”

This patchwork of rules has created “confusion around inconsistent requirements across provinces,” Badrov says. For employers operating in multiple provinces, it can be difficult to know whether they are compliant with each jurisdiction’s regulations—especially when the details in the regulations differ from one province to another.

Why Harmonization Matters Now

With the federal government tasking Ontario and Nova Scotia to lead the harmonization effort, and a major national meeting expected this fall, momentum is building. Badrov points out that the current political climate—driven by a desire to break down trade barriers and facilitate labour mobility—makes this a “step in the right direction” for employers, particularly in construction and other safety-sensitive industries.

Opportunities: Clarity, Mobility, and Digital Solutions

A harmonized approach could make compliance and training much simpler. “There’s some hope that a streamlined national approach would make it easier for employers, from a training standpoint, to ensure that their employees are adequately trained, have the right certificates, and are able to move people across borders more easily,” Badrov says.

Badrov also highlights the potential of digital certification platforms to simplify compliance, reduce repetitive recertification, and improve transparency. “Support for digital certification platforms is a rightful idea. It’ll help simplify compliance for employers and workers and help reduce some of the repetitive recertification and help improve transparency across jurisdictions,” he says.

What Should Be Harmonized First?

Badrov recommends focusing on high-risk

areas and safety-sensitive industries: “Mining, construction, health and community care—industries where safety-sensitive positions could impact workers and the public. Within those, regulations like working at heights, confined spaces, and hoisting and rigging should be prioritized for harmonization.”

Advice for Employers and Safety Leaders

For employers, the message is clear: Stay informed and proactive. “Our role as management-side counsel is to ensure that our clients are aware of what these changes are, so that they can abide by them,” Badrov says. He urges safety leaders to continue educating themselves, collaborate with peers, and leverage industry resources to prepare for the coming changes.

Badrov’s advice to his legal peers and safety professionals alike: “Continue to keep an eye on the developments, media reporting, and any legislation coming out of the meetings.”

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19-YEAR-OLD WORKER DIES OF CARBON MONOXIDE POISONING: POSTMORTEM

A postmortem examination has confirmed that carbon monoxide poisoning was the cause of death for a 19-year-old worker in Sudbury, Ont., earlier this year, according to a report.

On May 23, Roch (Rocco) Renaud “was located unconscious and with no vital signs at an address in Lively” around 8 p.m., according to Greater Sudbury Police, as reported by CBC.

A preliminary report submitted to the ministry stated that the worker was “fatally injured while performing maintenance work.” Ontario Ministry of Labour inspectors subsequently attended the scene.

The Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) are continuing to investigate the incident after taking over the case from the Greater Sudbury Police Service (GSPS) in June, CBC News reports. The GSPS transferred the investigation after two of its officers were suspended with pay under the Community

Safety and Policing Act. The police service has not released the names of the officers or provided further details, as the allegations against them have not been substantiated.

Ontario’s Ministry of Labour has also confirmed to CBC News that it is involved in the investigation. The incident underscores the ongoing risks of carbon monoxide exposure in workplace settings and the importance of stringent safety measures for maintenance workers.

In a Facebook post, M.I.C. Canadian Eatery & Whisky Pub – Sudbury, paid tribute to Renaud earlier this year.

“In loving memory of Rocco Renaud – a brilliant young man who has had a huge impact on the lives of so many. May his spirit live on in the choices of his peers,” they said, posting a photo of the worker.

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QUEBEC'S CONSTRUCTION HOLIDAY THE DEADLIEST IN LAST 10 YEARS, SAY PROVINCIAL POLICE

Quebec provincial police is reminding motorists to remain cautious given an unprecedented number of road deaths that occurred over Quebec's construction holiday — a mandatory two-week summer break when most construction sites pause operations.

The construction break is known to be a dangerous time of year on Quebec roads, but this year the Sûreté du Québec (SQ) is reporting 38 deaths from 30 collisions during the two-week period, compared to 17 deaths during 2024's construction holiday.

The tally for 2025 includes 31 road deaths and seven that happened off road on the recreational network.

"This data represents the worst results of the last 10 years on the network served by the SQ," police said in a news release.

This past weekend alone, at least nine people died, including four in a single-vehicle crash when a 29-year-old driver

veered off the road in Saint-Luc-de-Bellechasse, in Quebec's Chaudière-Appalaches region, and slammed into a tree. The driver, and three children under the age of 10 were killed.

The SQ also reported the deaths of three motorcyclists, one near Gatineau on Highway 105, another in Sainte-Flavie on the south shore of the St. Lawrence and a third in construction zone in Notre-Dame-de-Montauban in the Mauricie on Sunday.

André Durocher, a spokesperson for CAA-Québec, said the spike could be due to changes in Quebecers' travelling patterns amid the trade war with the United States.

"More people announced their intention to spend their vacation in Quebec," he said, adding there were probably more people on the road because of it.

One woman was killed in a three-vehicle

collision in Cowansville in the Eastern Townships on Sunday and the driver of a heavy truck also died after losing control of his vehicle in Saint-Moïse, near Rimouski, Que.

Gino Desrosiers, the spokesperson for Quebec's automobile insurance board — the *Société de l'assurance automobile du Québec* — said the vast majority of these collisions are preventable.

"It's human behaviour. So we're talking about speeding, distraction, impaired driving, fatigue," he said.

Provincial police agreed that human error is at play in most collisions and added that failure to wear appropriate safety

equipment is also a contributing factor in the number of serious injuries and deaths.

Speeding, distractions such as smart phones and impaired driving were some of the reoccurring causes in these collisions, said Lt. Joyce Campbell, who is responsible for road safety for the SQ.

More than half of the 30 crashes involved only one vehicle, she said.

"When there's a human factor that's involved, that means these collisions can be avoided."

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RTS Compliance Audits

RTS Consulting offers compliance audits for clients who would like an understanding of where they stand in their health and safety program. Based on previous investigations, client-specific audits will be conducted in areas such as: Corporate policy compliance (Due Diligence). WSIB compliance. Occupational health and safety programs. Hazardous materials. Waste audits and waste reduction work-plans. Packaging audits. Recycling management. Construction Health & safety compliance audits. Legislation compliance. Environment, health and safety management system audits. Pre-Workwell audits

For more information please contact Hailey Mesner at hmesner@rtsconsulting.com

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With Aloha,

Stanford Brown, B.Sc., CSP, CSHP, CRSP, CHSC, Senior Consultant, President & CEO