

Fermilab Safety Notice

New OSHA Fall Protection Standard for Residential and Roof Work

According to data from the department's Bureau of Labor Statistics, there is an average of 40 workers killed each year as a result of falls from residential roofs. As a result, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) announced a new fall protection requirements for Residential Construction effective June 16, 2011.

The Interim Fall Protection Compliance Guidelines for Residential Construction, Standard 03-00-001 has been rescinded. This standard also applied to “structures where the working environment, and the construction materials, methods, and procedures employed were essentially the same as those for typical house and townhouse construction”. OSHA’s new interpretation of "residential construction" for purposes of 1926.501(b) (13) combines two elements – both of which must be satisfied for a project to classified in that provision:

- The end-use of the structure being built must be as a home, i.e., a dwelling; and
- The structure being built must be constructed using traditional wood frame construction materials and methods.

The new directive requires all residential builders to comply with [29 Code of Federal Regulations 1926.501\(b\) \(13\)](#). Under [29 CFR 1926.501\(b\) \(13\)](#) workers engaged in residential construction over six (6) feet above the ground level are to be protected by conventional fall protection. For roofers, the 25 foot, ground-to-eave height threshold no longer applies, nor do slide guards as an acceptable form of fall protection, regardless of the roof pitch or height of the roof eave.

What Does This Mean For Roofing Work at Fermilab?

Simply put, whether a building at the Lab is considered “residential” or not, work on sloped roofs greater than 4 in 12 pitch (“steep roof”) will require any roofer with unprotected sides and edges 6 feet or more above lower levels to be protected from falling by guardrail systems with toeboards, safety net systems, or personal fall arrest systems. An effective fall restraint system can be used in lieu of a personal fall arrest system. To be effective, a fall restraint system must be rigged to prevent a worker from reaching a fall hazard and falling over the edge. A fall restraint system may consist of a full body harness or body belt that is connected to an anchor point at the center of a roof by a lanyard of a length that will not allow a worker to physically reach the edge of the roof.

For more information, go to: www.osha.gov/doc/residential_fall_protection.html

If you have any questions regarding this notice or any fall protection issues please contact your Senior Safety Officer or Jack Cassidy at x8223.