

ELEVATED SURFACES

Working on elevated surfaces poses serious risks, from falls to falling objects, making proper safety measures critical.

- Elevated work areas must remain clean, orderly, sanitary, and should always be adequately illuminated.
- Elevated surfaces that are more than four feet above the level below should have guardrails. (Unless a different height requirement is specified by applicable regulations or the specific work environment.)
- Toeboards should be added where needed to prevent objects from falling to lower levels.
- Each elevated work surface should have a permanent means of entry/exit.
- There should be adequate headroom on elevated work areas.
- Floor openings or holes on elevated surfaces must be protected with proper covers, guardrails, or barriers.
- When portable extension ladders are used to gain access to an elevated area, extend the ladder at least 3 feet above the elevated surface.
- Material on elevated surfaces must be piled, stacked, or racked to prevent it from tipping, falling, collapsing, rolling, or spreading.
- Dock boards or bridge plates are to be used when transferring materials between docks and trucks (or railcars). Secure dock boards and bridge plates in place when they are in use.
- Forklift operators should always maintain a safe distance from the edge of elevated ramps and platforms.
- Temporary elevated platforms, like scaffolds and portable workstations, must be properly secured, stabilized, and inspected before each use to prevent shifting, collapse, or tipping.



Discussion

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How are common hazards for workers on elevated surfaces?

How can weather conditions affect safety for workers on elevated surfaces?