



OSHA REGIONAL NOTICE

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Occupational Safety and Health Administration

DIRECTIVE NUMBER: CPL 04 – 00 (LEP 006) **EFFECTIVE DATE:** October 1, 2003
SUBJECT: Local Emphasis Program for Fall Hazards in Construction

REGIONAL IDENTIFIER: Region V

ABSTRACT

Purpose: To continue a Local Emphasis Program for Fall Hazards in Construction and correct paragraph numbering errors

References: CPL 2.103 Field Inspection Reference Manual

Cancellations: This Notice cancels and supersedes Chicago Regional Notice CPL 2-1.10K dated October 1, 2002

Action Offices: All Area Offices in Region V

Originating Office: Enforcement Programs

Contact: Assistant Regional Administrator
 Enforcement Programs
 U.S. Department of Labor – OSHA
 230 S. Dearborn Street, Room 3244
 Chicago, Illinois 60604
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By and Under the Authority of
Michael G. Connors
Regional Administrator

I. Purpose. To modify and reissue a Local Emphasis Program (LEP) for Fall Hazards in Construction.

II. Scope. This Notice applies to all Region V Area OSHA Offices.

III. References. CPL 2.103, Field Inspection Reference Manual (FIRM).

IV. Expiration. This Notice expires September 30, 2004.

V. Cancellation. This Notice cancels and supersedes Regional Notice CPL 2-1.10L CH-1.

VI. Action. The Area Offices will implement the procedures described in paragraph IX of this Notice in response to imminent dangers or serious fall hazards that are identified on construction sites.

VII. Policy. The Area Directors shall use the LEP as described herein as the basis for scheduling and conducting safety inspections of construction sites in addition to the U-Tenn/CRA system. The targeting and selection program is intended to be used on any construction site where fall hazards have been alleged and/or identified to initiate safety inspections. These inspections may be expanded to comprehensive inspections of multi-employer construction sites in accordance with the guidelines established in the FIRM.

VIII. Background. Region V has experienced significant construction activity in recent years. Accidents relating to falls from elevations are one of the leading causes of serious injuries and fatalities. It is believed through a local emphasis program that increases awareness and accelerates enforcement activity, injuries can be reduced. It is also recognized that a tracking mechanism for these type inspections would prove beneficial in monitoring the area of fall hazards. In the past, many unprogrammed inspections have been conducted through CSHO self referrals, imminent danger complaints or through accident investigations. This LEP is designed to increase inspection activity, provide tracking, enhance expertise and formalize procedures.

IX. Procedures. The following procedures will be used in targeting, scheduling and tracking of inspections conducted under this LEP.

A. An inspection targeting system which encompasses identification of sites at the beginning of the quarter and the random selection of sites is not practical. Hazards related to falls on construction sites are normally transient and of limited duration. This limits the practicality of targeting the site in advance. Therefore, inspections conducted under this LEP would be initiated by several means: CSHO observance, non-formal complaints, and referrals from other outside sources. The Area Director shall determine, as part of the annual plan, the projected number of inspections to be conducted under this LEP during the fiscal year.

B. All work sites where fall hazards are observed by compliance officers will be selected for inspection under this LEP.

These sites shall include but shall not be limited to:

1. Structural steel erection sites other than buildings where fall protection is not apparent and potential falls or related hazards exist;
2. Structural steel erection of buildings where fall protection for employees other than ironworkers is not apparent and potential falls or related hazards exist;
3. Structural steel erection of buildings where fall protection for ironworkers at heights in excess of 25' to the exterior of the building, or 30' to the interior of the building is not apparent and potential falls or related hazards exist;
4. Sites where scaffolds or work platforms are observed without an adequate guardrail system or fall protection device in use;
5. Sites where open sided floors or floor openings are observed and potential exposure exists;
6. Roofs greater than 16 feet where no fall protective systems are in use; and
7. Other activities which constitute potential falls and no protective systems are in use such as bridge repairs, signs, water towers, sites where suspension scaffolds are in use and activities where employees are working from elevations without fall protection.

When a job site with fall hazards is noted during travel, the CSHO will notify the supervisor with the name of the contractor (if known) and the location of the site. The supervisor will determine if the site has been inspected within the last 30 days. If the site has not been inspected within the last 30 days, permission will be given to inspect the site. If the site has been inspected within the last 30 days, an inspection will be authorized only if an imminent danger appears to be present, or at the Area Director's discretion. These inspections will normally be limited to the imminent danger situation and plain view items. The CSHO will remain at the site to observe the abatement procedures and/or to assist with abatement methods. CSHOs will record these as planned LEP inspections rather than as referrals.

C. Each Area Office shall designate at least one fall protection specialist. The specialist is responsible for staying abreast of fall protection issues and interpretations. Specialists should also develop a current file on abatement methodology. The Area Offices (cumulatively) will provide training and have a combined meeting with the specialists in order to maintain fall protection expertise. The specialists should be included in first response situations for accidents and imminent dangers (where possible) and provide consultation to other CSHOs on related matters.

X. IMIS Coding. Inspections conducted under this program will be coded as "h. Planned" in item 24, and item 25c will be coded "FALL."

XI. Evaluation Procedures. It is important that this program be evaluated in a timely manner in order to assess its potential future value and to make any necessary modification.

A. The Area Directors shall submit an evaluation report to the ARA/EP no later than October 30, 2004. The evaluation shall include a brief description of inspections conducted, results of the inspections, and an evaluation of the program in general.

B. The ARA/EP shall prepare a final evaluation report regarding the effectiveness of the program and make recommendation for modification and/or continuation of the program to the Regional Administrator by October 30, 2004.