

SAFETY FIRST

Fall Prevention



Fall prevention applies all the time, not only when working at high heights. According to the National Safety Council, in 2022, 144 fatalities occurred due to falls at ground level. Workers are at serious risk of injury and even death when at heights of six feet and greater.

Preventing falls at solid waste and resource management sites requires situational awareness, planning, and communication. Follow these tips to improve your chances of preventing a dangerous fall:

- Scan your work areas, including indoor and outdoor sites, and vehicles, for potential trip and slip hazards. Determine how to mitigate those risks.
- Before starting a job, review exactly how it will be done and what safety equipment may be needed.
- Take extra precautions when working in inclement weather, especially when there is risk of ice, wet surfaces, or limited visibility issues.



- Ensure you have the right equipment for the job, such as job-appropriate ladders and scaffolds in good condition.
- Always use personal protection equipment (PPE) and other safety equipment, and ensure you've been trained to use it correctly.
- Examine stair railings, handrails, guard rails, toe-boards, and other fall protection safeguards regularly to ensure they are in good condition.
- Keep floors and other surfaces clean and dry. Post caution signs when floors are wet or slippery.

Image Source: City of Goodyear, AZ

Source: [NSC](#), [OSHA](#)

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Embedding safety in your organization's culture is key to fall prevention and the overall safety of your team. Attend the [WASTECON[®] Opening Session Safety in the Skies and on the Ground: Aviation Industry Insights for Solid Waste and Resource Management.](#)



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