

Fall Protection for Electricians

By: Robert Lahey, Construction Safety Council

The inherent risks associated with electrical construction and installation are well documented. While most incidents involve shocks and electrocutions, falls from heights represent the second-leading cause of injuries and fatalities. It only takes a split-second; and falling just a few feet can have serious consequences. So it's imperative that electrical contractors plan, implement, and maintain a fall prevention program.

To learn more, please attend the upcoming Joint Safety Forum for members of the IBEW Local Union 701 and IBEW Local Union 134, sponsored by the Electrical Contractors' Association of City of Chicago and the Northeastern Illinois Chapter of NECA:

"Fall Protection & Prevention for the Electrical Worker"

Friday, April 28, 2023

8:00 am - 10:00 am

IBEW Local 701 Union Hall

28600 Bella Vista Parkway | Warrenville, Illinois

The Construction Safety Council will deliver an informative presentation that addresses workplace hazards presented by ladders, boom/scissor lifts, scaffolding, and holes in floors, walls, and ceilings. There is no cost to attend this event. To register, please contact PowerForward DuPage at (630) 393-1701 Extension 5 or via email at info@powerforwarddupage.com.

The U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) recognizes the dangers of elevated work environments and therefore, enforces standards to keep employers and employees safe:

Title 29 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 1926: Subpart M – FALL PROTECTION

- Section 501 requires employers to provide fall protection systems.
- Section 502 defines fall protection systems criteria and practices.
- Section 503 establishes training program requirements.

Title 29 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 1926: Subpart L – SCAFFOLDS

- Section 451 defines specifications for the design and build of a scaffolding system.
- Section 452 lists requirements for specific types of scaffolds.
- Section 453 governs the use of aerial lift equipment.
- Section 454 establishes training program requirements.

These codes provide a clear picture of legal responsibilities related to fall protection and prevention. However, these are only what is required, at a minimum.

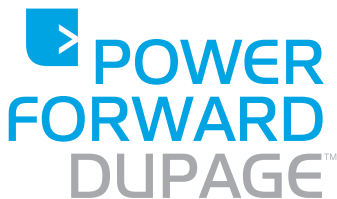
There are numerous other ways to protect electricians from falls, including the use of guardrails, safety nets, personal fall arrest systems, and the adoption of safe work practices, including warning lines and control zones to limit the number of workers exposed.

Employers should conduct a hazard assessment prior to developing a comprehensive fall protection plan. Such a proactive, preventative approach will help to protect those who operate on ladders, scaffolds, and lifts. It also ensures a safer, more productive jobsite.

The Construction Safety Council, in partnership with PowerForward DuPage, offers a variety of fall protection safety training programs. Discounted enrollment is available to IBEW Local Union 701 signatory contractors and workers. A year-round schedule of events is available at www.buildsafe.org or call 708.449.8604 to request custom delivery of training anywhere at any time.

PowerForward DuPage and the Construction Safety Council are pleased to partner in support of this continued effort to ensure that IBEW contractors and members **Work Smart, Build Safe.**

*Robert Lahey is the President & CEO of the Construction Safety Council located in Hillside, Illinois. For more than 30 years, the Council has delivered programs and services in support of its mission to improve human safety performance through education and training.
Learn more at www.buildsafe.org*



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The Construction Safety Council, in partnership with the NECA-IBEW 701 Safety Committee, would like to remind you to Work Smart, Build Safe!



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