

TOOLBOX TALK, February 2nd, 2026

Training

There are no union trainings posted for February yet.

Check your records at fsstools.com under the *Training Records* tab to see what you need.

When they're available, sign up for classes, at the union training site or check schedules at fsstools.com.

Fall Protection Planning

Falls are the number one cause of death in construction, making up about a third of all fatalities. Most fall accidents don't happen because of just one thing—they usually involve a mix of human error and equipment issues. That's why fall protection planning matters. It's not just about the gear we wear, but also how we think and act on the job.

Anytime we're working near an edge that's six feet high or higher, and we're within six feet of that edge, we need fall protection. That means stopping and planning before we start work.

At Fred Shearer, fall protection planning is done in coordination with the Safety Department and your foremen, but you also play a big role. If something doesn't feel right, speak up—your safety depends on it.

When Fall Protection Is Required

- If we're asked to put on a fall protection harness, there **must be a written fall protection plan in place**—even when working in a boom lift.
- Make sure **the plan is understood** before putting on a harness.
- Always **inspect your fall protection equipment** before you use it.

What to Check Before You Hook Up

Take a few minutes to look over your gear:

- Check the harness webbing and stitching for any damage
- Make sure the label is present and readable
- Inspect all metal parts like D-rings and buckles
- Confirm the harness fits correctly
- Check that trauma straps are there, properly secured, and include a hook and a loop
- Inspect the entire fall protection system—anchors, SRLs, lanyards, beam straps, clamps, and anything else in the system

Stay Alert for Fall Hazards

Sometimes fall hazards aren't obvious right away, especially when we're working in a new area. This is where we need to stay alert and trust our instincts. If you spot a potential fall hazard, stop and talk to your foreman so a plan can be made.

It only takes a second for something to go wrong. Take the time to plan ahead, watch out for one another.

Make sure we go home safe at the end of the day.

Innovations and Safety Wins

We love hearing innovative ideas and about safety wins. If you have an amazing innovation that could either save time or keep us safer, or if you've had a safety win in the field, please share it. Let us know what's going on by submitting to www.fsstools.com/suggestionbox

[Toolbox Talk Submission](#)