
Focus on Fall Hazards at Construction Sites

McGuinty Government Heightening Awareness Around Workplace Hazards

NEWS

January 6, 2010

Ontario Ministry of Labour inspectors will check for hazards involving suspended platforms at construction sites during an enforcement blitz starting in mid-January and is reminding industry parties to protect workers from hazards that cause workers to fall.

The ministry has issued a [hazard alert](#) on the fundamental safety procedures for suspended platforms. Inspectors will also begin a heightened enforcement campaign targeting fall hazards in the construction sector. As part of regular inspections, they will look for compliance with fall protection requirements, including appropriate fall-related equipment and adequate worker training.

Ministry inspectors will have zero tolerance for non-compliance. The review will be completed within 90 days.

This initiative is part of the province's *Safe At Work Ontario* strategy. The strategy takes a broad approach to improve workplace health and safety practices through education, training, and enforcement of provincial legislation and regulations.

QUOTES

"We want to ensure that Ontarians are safe at their workplace and these actions we're taking serve as a reminder that safety practices must be followed when working above the ground. I have asked for a report back in 90 days, at which time decisions will be made on what further steps will be taken."

—Peter Fonseca, Minister of Labour

QUICK FACTS

- Since 2005 Ontario has doubled the number of full-time occupational health and safety inspectors, bringing the total to 430.
- A 2008 falls blitz visiting 704 construction projects resulted in 3,262 orders, 336 stop-work orders and 1,455 forthwith orders.

LEARN MORE

Read more about Ontario's four-year plan, [Safe at Work Ontario](#), that will help strengthen workplace safety.

Learn the results of past Ministry of Labour [inspection blitzes](#).