

FALL PROTECTION PLAN FOR RESIDENTIAL CONSTRUCTION

29 CFR [1926.501](#)(b)(13) requires each employee engaged in residential construction activities 6 feet (1.8 m) or more above lower levels shall be protected by guardrail systems, safety net system, or personal fall arrest system unless another provision in paragraph (b) of 29 CFR 1926.501 provides for an alternative fall protection measure. However, when the employer can demonstrate that it is infeasible or creates a greater hazard to use these systems, the employer shall develop and implement a fall protection plan which meets the requirements of paragraph (k) of [1926.502](#).

Important note: *There is a presumption that it is feasible and will not create a greater hazard to implement at least one of the above-listed fall protection systems. Accordingly, the employer has the burden of establishing that it is appropriate to implement a fall protection plan which complies with 1926.502(k) for a particular workplace situation, in lieu of implementing any of those systems.*

Federal OSHA has a sample fall protection plan on their safety and health topic page for Fall Protection in Residential Construction under [Compliance Assistance](#) and in [Appendix E](#) of Part 1926, [Subpart M](#). In addition, a model fall protection plan, training and inspection form was developed by the University of Houston through Federal OSHA Grant Number: SH-31228-SH7 and is available on [OSHA's website](#).

The NCDOL OSH Division has also adopted Federal OSHA Directive: [STD 03-11-002](#) Compliance Guidance for Residential Construction and should be used as a guide when developing a fall protection plan.