

**FOCUS GROUP GUIDE FOR  
Evaluation of toolbox talks for Spanish-speaking construction workers  
FALLS FROM ROOF AND LADDER**

**National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, Centers for Disease Control (CDC)**

My name is \_\_\_\_\_. I have invited you here to take part in a research study with the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, a research agency that is part of a federal agency, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC).

I am not a federal government employee, and everything we talk about is confidential, as I will explain below. I have contracted to carry out *focus group* conversations with immigrant, Latino, construction workers with NIOSH.

First, let's be sure you meet our SELECTION CRITERIA.

**1. What is your origin?**

- Latino \_\_\_\_\_ (n)
- Mexico \_\_\_\_\_ (n)
- Where \_\_\_\_\_ (n)
- Honduras \_\_\_\_\_ (n)
- Guatemala \_\_\_\_\_ (n)
- El Salvador \_\_\_\_\_ (n)
- \_\_\_\_\_ (n)
- \_\_\_\_\_ (n)
- \_\_\_\_\_ (n)
- \_\_\_\_\_ (n)
- \_\_\_\_\_ (n)

OTHER \_\_\_\_\_ (not in Spanish-speaking Latin America): *(thank you very much for your time)* \_\_\_\_\_ (n)

**2. What is your current work?**

- Construction Latino \_\_\_\_\_ (n)
- Renovation Latino \_\_\_\_\_ (n)
- Drywall Latino \_\_\_\_\_ (n)
- Painting, brick/stone work Latino \_\_\_\_\_ (n)

IF OTHER: *(thank you very much for your time)*

**3. What is your age?**

- Over 18 \_\_\_\_\_ (n)
- Under 18 *(thank you very much for your time)* \_\_\_\_\_ (n)

*[If the participants do not meet the following criteria, currently working in construction, of Latino origin and over age 18, then thank them for their time and explain that they do not fit our criteria.]*

Thank you. Let me explain a bit more before you agree to participate

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**Evaluation of toolbox talks for Spanish-speaking construction workers**  
**FALLS FROM ROOF AND LADDER**  
**National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health,**  
**Centers for Disease Control (CDC)**  
**Focus Group Consent**

Before we get started, I want to make sure that everybody understands the purpose and procedures of today's focus group. This focus group is part of a study being conducted by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), part of the CDC (Centers for Disease Control), federal agencies. The purpose of today's focus group is to get your opinion about a safety training tool. The goal of the project is to improve the safety and health of Latino construction workers.

Our conversation will take about an hour. We will make every effort to keep what you tell us confidential: we will not record your name or link it, or any other identifying characteristics, to anything you say.

However, **since this is a focus group with a number of other participants, you need to be aware that, although we ask all of you not to repeat anything or identify anyone in the group, we cannot guarantee that other group members will not repeat something you say.** For this reason, we encourage you not to mention personal information, such as your name or that of your employer.

The data—comments, quotes and behaviors—from this study may be used to write a research paper or presentation; however, you will not be identified by name. I would like your permission to tape the discussion, but only for my own use, in case I don't understand something. I will destroy the copy once I turn in my report.

Your participation is completely voluntary and you may refuse to participate. You may discontinue participation **at any time** without penalty or loss of benefits to which you are otherwise entitled.

**Do you agree to participate? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ (n) No \_\_\_\_\_ (n)**

At the end of our conversation, I will give you a copy of this information sheet, as well as other materials about worker and immigrant safety.

If you have any questions about the study you may call Donald Eggerth at (513) 533-8 505.

Thank you very much

**Witness:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Witness affiliation:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Focus Group Guide**  
**Evaluation of toolbox talks for Spanish-speaking construction workers**  
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**Centers for Disease Control (CDC)**

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

LOCATION: \_\_\_\_\_

START TIME: \_\_\_\_\_

FACILITATOR: \_\_\_\_\_

***Welcome to our project, and thanks for your help in understanding if these materials are effective. Remember, there is no right or wrong answer. You all are the experts in language, use, and in the work. We want to know what you think.***

***First, we have a few general questions about you all.***

**INTRODUCTIONS/ PARTICIPANTS:** \_\_\_\_\_ (n)

**4. Gender**

F \_\_\_\_\_ (n)  
M \_\_\_\_\_ (n)

**5. Ethnicity / origin**

Latino/ Hispano	_____ (n)
Maya	(which) _____ (n)
Mexican	_____ (n)
_____	_____ (n)
_____	_____ (n)
_____	_____ (n)
_____	_____ (n)
_____	_____ (n)

**6. Ages**

Less than 22 years	_____ (n)
23-30	_____ (n)
31-40	_____ (n)
41-50	_____ (n)
51-60	_____ (n)
Over 60 years	_____ (n)

**7. Where (what country/region) were you born?**

Spanish-speaking Latin America	_____ (n)
Other--Latin America	_____ (n)
US	_____ (n)
Other	_____ (n)

8. Your native (first) language is \_\_\_\_\_.

- a. English \_\_\_\_\_ (n)
- b. Spanish \_\_\_\_\_ (n)
- c. Other – List \_\_\_\_\_ (n)
- d. \_\_\_\_\_ (n)
- e. \_\_\_\_\_ (n)

9. What is your educational background? (Circle One)

- a. Primary (1-6) \_\_\_\_\_ (n)
- b. Secondary (7-9) \_\_\_\_\_ (n)
- c. Some high school \_\_\_\_\_ (n)
- d. High school graduate or equivalent (GED) \_\_\_\_\_ (n)
- e. Some college \_\_\_\_\_ (n)
- f. College graduate \_\_\_\_\_ (n)
- g. Post graduate \_\_\_\_\_ (n)
- h. OTHER \_\_\_\_\_ (n)

10. What work were you trained to do, or what work did you do in home country

- a. Ag \_\_\_\_\_ (n)
- b. Construction \_\_\_\_\_ (n)
- c. Services (driver, vendor, store, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_ (n)
- d. Profession (teacher, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_ (n)
- e. Other \_\_\_\_\_ (n)

11. How many years have you been in the US? TOTAL

- >2
- 3-5
- 6-10
- 10+
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

THIS TIME

- |           |           |
|-----------|-----------|
| _____ (n) | _____ (n) |
| _____ (n) | _____ (n) |
| _____ (n) | _____ (n) |
| _____ (n) | _____ (n) |
| _____ (n) | _____ (n) |

12. What do you do now?

- f. Worker \_\_\_\_\_ (n)
- g. Supervisor and Worker \_\_\_\_\_ (n)
- h. Supervisor Only \_\_\_\_\_ (n)
- i. Supervisor and Owner Only \_\_\_\_\_ (n)
- j. Owner Only \_\_\_\_\_ (n)
- k. Other \_\_\_\_\_ (n)

13. How long have you been working in this trade? TOTAL

- a. Less than 1 year
- b. 1-5 years
- c. 6-10 years
- d. 11-20 years
- e. Over 21 years
- f. Other \_\_\_\_\_

THIS TIME

- |           |           |
|-----------|-----------|
| _____ (n) | _____ (n) |
| _____ (n) | _____ (n) |
| _____ (n) | _____ (n) |
| _____ (n) | _____ (n) |
| _____ (n) | _____ (n) |
| _____ (n) | _____ (n) |

14. How many workers *currently* work at your job site?<sup>1</sup>

1-10	_____	(n)
11-20	_____	(n)
20+	_____	(n)
Other _____	_____	(n)

15. Have you ever had a work accident? If so, what:

Number	What	_____	(n)
a _____	_____	(n)	_____ (n)
b _____	_____	(n)	_____ (n)
c _____	_____	(n)	_____ (n)
d _____	_____	(n)	_____ (n)
e _____	_____	(n)	_____ (n)

16. What do you know about workman's comp?

Nothing  
 Where the office is  
 \_\_\_\_\_

17. Have you ever, or do you know someone who has filed?

Yes (I have) \_\_\_\_\_ (n)  
 Yes (I know someone) \_\_\_\_\_ (n)  
 No \_\_\_\_\_ (n)  
 Other \_\_\_\_\_ (n)

18. What is the most dangerous thing about your work?

19. What kind of safety training have you had? (topics, who, hours, how frequent, etc.)

20. Is there a union on your site? YES \_\_\_\_\_ (n) NO \_\_\_\_\_ (n)

21. Which one? \_\_\_\_\_

22. Are you a member? YES \_\_\_\_\_ (n) NO \_\_\_\_\_ (n)

**Now, let's move on to the actual materials we want you to help us with:**



# Falls: Extension Ladders

*Each year, construction workers fall from ladders and are injured or die. Most of these falls are from extension ladders and occur when the ladder slips, the supports move, or the worker loses balance.*

## Raul's Story

Raul was climbing down a 24-foot extension ladder. Suddenly the ladder slipped. He lost his balance and fell 12 feet onto a concrete surface. Raul suffered head injuries and a broken hand.

- ✘ **Have you ever fallen or do you know anyone who has fallen from an extension ladder? If so, what happened?**
- ✘ **How could this incident have been prevented?**

## Remember This

- Whenever possible, use an aerial lift or scaffold to work at heights.
- Conduct regular inspections and maintenance on extension ladders. Inspect the rails, rungs, feet, and spreaders or rung locks for defects or damage **every time** you use it. If you see any damage, **tag it** "do not use" and request another ladder.

- **Always** check your ladder's duty rating to make sure it will support you and your toolbelt!
- Use both hands when climbing up and down a ladder.

## Placement tips

- Set your ladder on a solid, stable base and at the correct 4-to-1 angle: for every 4 rungs, place the ladder back 1 foot. As a check, put your feet on the feet of the ladder and extend your arms straight forward; you should just be able to touch a rung of the ladder.
- Use the NIOSH Ladder Safety app to check the placement of your ladder (<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/falls/mobileapp.html>)
- Screw a 2' x 4' cleat to the ground behind the ladder's feet to prevent the ladder from slipping backward.
- Tie off the top of the ladder, and the bottom if possible, to prevent it from slipping sideways.
- Extend the ladder 3 feet above the landing.

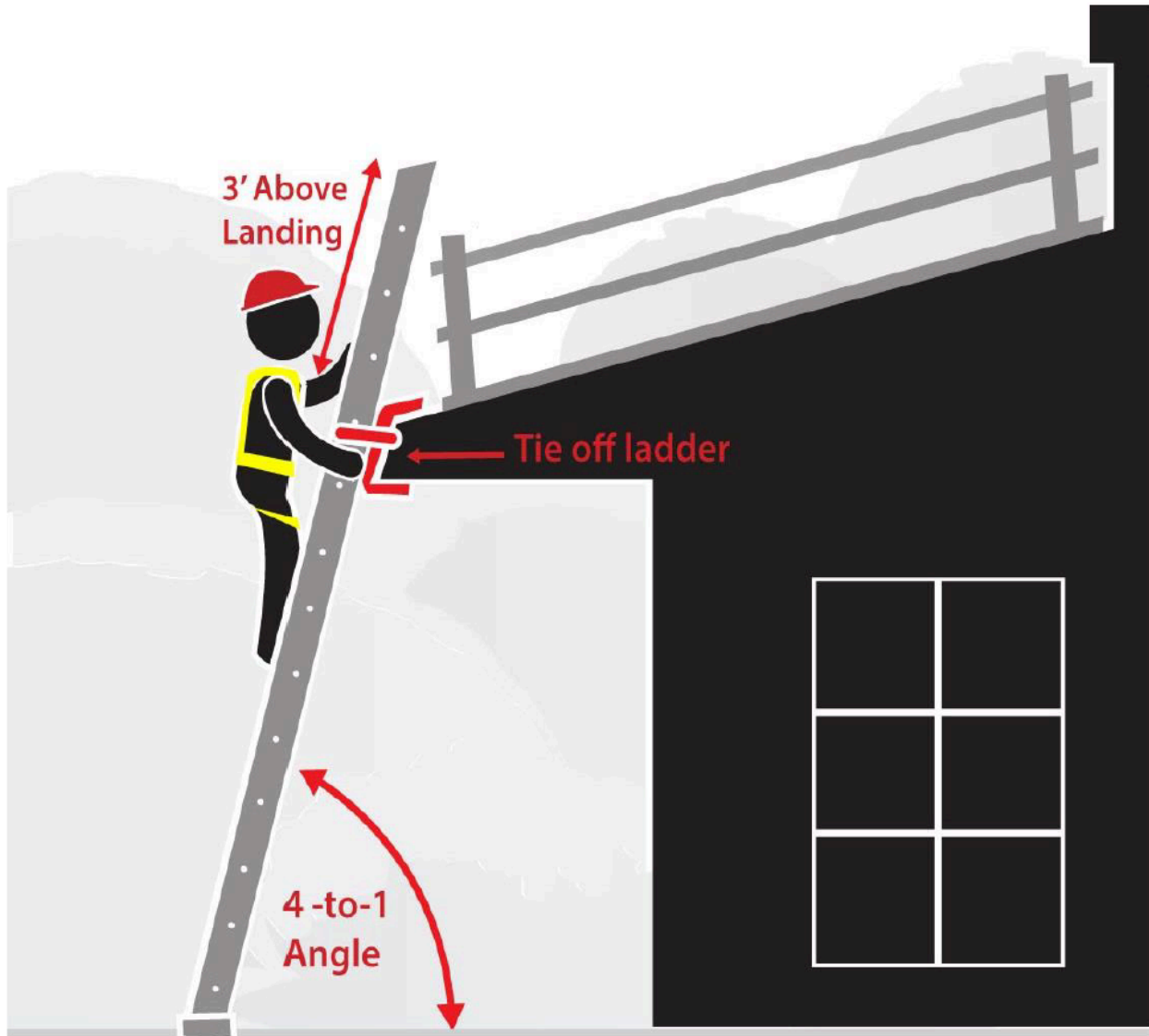
## How can we stay safe today?

What will we do at the worksite to prevent falls from extension ladders?

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

OSHA Regulation: 1926.1053

# Falls: Extension Ladders



- ✘ Inspect your ladder for damage before use. If damaged, do not use it and ask for another.
- ✘ Set your ladder at the correct 4-to-1 angle.
- ✘ Tie off the top of the ladder to prevent it from slipping sideways.
- ✘ Extend the ladder 3 feet above the landing.

**23. Review the story, have you ever fallen? Or do you know someone who has?**

- What happened?

**24. How could it have been prevented? (see list of things to remember)**

- Lift
- Scaffold
- Inspect
- Placement – base, cleat, tie off, extend

**25. What can you do to prevent falls?**

**POST TOOL BOX DISCUSSION**

**26. What was the purpose of this toolbox?**

**27. How easy or difficult was it to understand the task?**

**28. The most helpful part of our recent toolbox safety talks was**

- a. How the trainer presented the information \_\_\_\_\_ (n)
- b. The technical details about how to do my work safely \_\_\_\_\_ (n)
- c. The real-life stories about how other workers were not safe and got hurt \_\_\_\_\_ (n)
- d. Pictures or drawings of what we talked about \_\_\_\_\_ (n)
- e. Other: \_\_\_\_\_ (n)

**29. Based on what you have learned in the recent toolbox talks, what are some specific ways that the safety in your workplace can be improved?**

**30. Was the language or Spanish usage different from in your home country or what you know?**





# Preventing Falls from Rooftops

*In construction, falls from higher levels result in more deaths and injuries than any other cause. Many of these accidents are falls from rooftops.*

## Bill's Story

Bill and another roofer started working on a garage roof that was about 10 feet above the ground. Suddenly, Bill slipped and nearly slid off the edge of the rooftop. He was wearing a body harness attached to a lifeline, however, which stopped the fall.

- ✘ What is the purpose of a lifeline?
- ✘ Do you know anyone who has fallen off a rooftop? If so, what happened?

## Remember This

- Fall protection is **required** for anyone working on roofs or other areas where the distance to the ground or another surface is more than 6 feet.
- Roofing slide guards are **not** fall protection.
- Always inspect your fall arrest equipment for damage.
- If the fall arrest equipment looks like it needs repair, remove it from service and have an expert examine it.
- Ask your supervisor about adding permanent anchorages during roofing operations.
- Permanent anchorages must support 5,000 pounds for each person attached to them by a lanyard or a lifeline.

## How can we stay safe today?

What will we do at the worksite to prevent falls from rooftops?

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

OSHA Regulations: 1926.501 – 1926.502

# Preventing Falls from Rooftops



- ✘ Fall protection is **required** for anyone working on roofs or other areas where the distance to the ground or another surface is more than 6 feet.
- ✘ Roofing slide guards are **not** fall protection.
- ✘ **Always** inspect your fall arrest equipment for damage. If it looks like it needs repair, remove it from

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**31. Review the story**

**32. Have you, or do you know someone who has fallen from a roof?**

**33. How can these kinds of falls be prevented?**

- What is the purpose of a lifeline?
- Fall protection required
- Not slide guards
- Inspect
- Weight

**POST TOOL BOX DISCUSSION**

**34. What was the purpose of this toolbox?**

**35. How easy or difficult was it to understand the task?**

**36. The most helpful part of our recent toolbox safety talks was \_\_\_\_\_**

- a. How the trainer presented the information
- b. The technical details about how to do my work safely
- c. The real-life stories about how other workers were not safe and got hurt
- d. Pictures or drawings of what we talked about
- e. Other:

**37. Based on what you have learned in the recent toolbox talks, what are some specific ways that the safety in your workplace can be improved?**

**38. If you were to receive this training, what would help you prove that you had been trained?**

Thank you for your participation. Do you have any questions of us?

Here is some *information* about workplace safety, as well as a copy of the *first page* of my question guides with my name as well as the name and number of the project coordinator.

Thank you.

**END TIME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**COMMENTS AND NOTES**