

## DOSH Fall Protection Rule updates

### **\*\*Upcoming Stakeholder Meetings\*\***

#### **Fall Protection Standard and Walking-Working Surfaces Updates**

Dear Businesses and Stakeholders,

The Washington State Department of Labor and Industries (L&I), Division of Occupational Safety and Health (DOSH), would like to invite interested stakeholders to our upcoming stakeholder meetings to review our discussion draft for the [Unified Fall Protection rule and our proposed Walking/working surfaces update](#).

Our meeting locations have limited space so please RSVP for the stakeholder meeting you plan to attend. We want to ensure we have space for everyone:

- August 28, 2018, 9:00am      [East Wenatchee L&I Service Location](#) ([RSVP here](#))
- August 29, 2018, 9:00am      [Southridge Sports & Events Center, Kennewick](#) ([RSVP here](#))
- August 30, 2018, 9:00am      [Yakima L&I Service Location](#) ([RSVP here](#))
- September 6, 2018, 1:00pm      [Bellingham L&I Service Location](#) ([RSVP here](#))
- September 18, 2018, 1:00pm      [Seattle – IAM District 751 Union Hall](#) ([RSVP here](#))
- September 25, 2018, 9:00am      [Enduris Training Center, Spokane](#) ([RSVP here](#))
- October 3, 2018, 1:00pm      [Vancouver L&I Service Location](#) ([RSVP here](#))

In the event you are unable to attend one or more of these meetings in person, we are offering the opportunity to attend remotely utilizing WebEx. For more information and links to join the meetings please see the [WebEx Meeting Invitation](#).

The department hosted a series of stakeholder meetings in the fall of 2016 through summer of 2017. We met with stakeholders across the state including Tukwila, Bellingham, Vancouver, Wenatchee, Yakima and Spokane. Through these public forums we found widespread support from stakeholders who said a single, unified fall protection standard that applied to all industries statewide would be easier to implement and help protect workers from fall hazards. Since that time, our technical staff have worked hard to incorporate your comments and concerns into a discussion document now ready for a second series of stakeholder meetings.

We will also reserve time at the meetings to discuss updates to our walking-working surfaces requirements. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) updated their requirements in 2017 and now DOSH's rules must be updated to ensure they are as effective as the [OSHA requirements](#).

Rulemaking on both fall protection and walking/working surfaces are considered separate projects. Since these two projects are so intertwined we will conduct the stakeholder meetings together. You can expect the meeting agenda to include time for a thorough review of both standard updates.

No specific decisions have been made and we are asking for your help once again. We value your input and want to hear what you think a unified fall protection standard and our walking-working surface update should look like.

## **Background**

On June 2013 and October 2015 DOSH received notification from OSHA relating to the Department's fall protection standards, Chapter 296-155 WAC, Part C-1. The focus of OSHA's position is residential construction which has both high fatality and hospitalization rates due to falls from elevation. OSHA is concerned that our fall protection residential construction standards differ significantly from their policies and standards. Their policy issues focus in the following areas: Ambiguous language with regards to skylights and wall openings, the use and strength of warning lines, alternatives to conventional fall protection – catch platforms and safety watch systems and trigger height.

On March 22, 2016 a [CR-101 \(preproposal\) was filed](#), letting the public know we were considering rulemaking on fall protection as well as incorporating OSHA's new rule; Walking/Working Surfaces. Because Washington's rules need to be at least as effective as OSHA rules, we are required to update our rules so they meet or exceed the federal safety requirements.

## **Contact Information**

Please contact Carmyn Shute with any rulemaking or meeting questions: [Carmyn.Shute@lni.wa.gov](mailto:Carmyn.Shute@lni.wa.gov) or 360-902-6081

Please contact Erich Smith with any technical questions about the Unified Fall Protection rule: [Erich.Smith@lni.wa.gov](mailto:Erich.Smith@lni.wa.gov) or 206-515-2786

Please contact Drew Kertzman with any technical questions about the Walking-Working Surfaces rule:

[Drew.Kertzman@lni.wa.gov](mailto:Drew.Kertzman@lni.wa.gov) or 360-902-4543

Project updates will be posted on Labor and Industries [Fall Protection Rulemaking page](#). To sign up to receive updates on the Fall Protection Rulemaking; or, other areas, update your subscriptions, modify your password or email address, or stop subscriptions at any time on your [Subscriber Preferences Page](#). You will need to use your email address to log in. If you have questions or problems with the subscription service, please visit our [Subscriber Help Center](#).

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