

# THE SAFETY LEADER

leading the commitment to zero injuries

## National Electrical Safety Month

May 4, 2018 | Issue 154

May is National Electrical Safety Month, and ComEd is joining with the Electrical Safety Foundation International (ESFI) to reduce electrical-related fatalities, injuries, and property loss. This year's campaign theme is "Decoding the National Electrical Code® to Prevent Shock and Electrocution," which features resources to help protect against common electrical hazards.

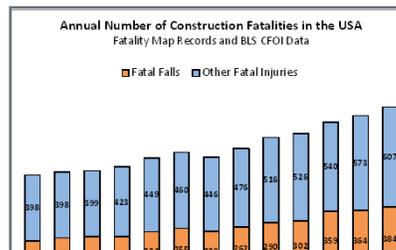
For more information on electrical safety, including workplace, home and child safety, go to [www.esfi.org](http://www.esfi.org).

## National Fall Prevention Week—May 7-11

The U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) and other federal safety agencies have designated May 7-11 as National Safety Stand-Down to Prevent Falls in Construction. This is a nationwide effort to remind and educate employers and workers in the construction industry of the serious dangers of falls.

Fatalities caused by falls continue to be a leading cause of death for construction employees, accounting for 859 of the 5,190 construction fatalities recorded in 2016 (Bureau of Labor Statistics).

Recently two Transmission Overhead employees were ejected from a high lift. If they had not been wearing the proper fall protection they would have fallen more than 100 feet to the ground. This incident is an example of why we honor National Fall Prevention Week each year.



ComEd will observe National Fall Prevention Week to raise awareness around preventing fall hazards. See the Weekly Safety Messages on page 2 for tips on bolstering fall protection across work groups.

Meanwhile, learn more about the high lift incident at [Safety Alert CE-SA-1837](#).

### WEEKLY INCIDENTS

Incidents for the week of April 23

**Congratulations on two consecutive OSHA, First Aid- and RVA-free weeks!**

Near Miss (reported): 124 YTD  
Good Catch: 979 YTD  
Safety Council Success: 27 YTD

OSHA: 0

First Aid: 0

RVAs: 0

MVAs: 1

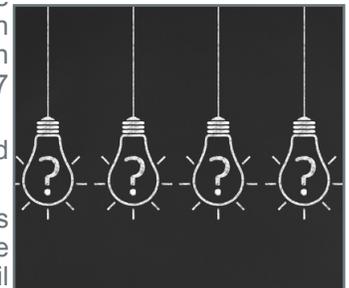
- A Libertyville Overhead Electrical Specialist was rear-ended by a public vehicle while stopped at a red light.

## Good Catch—Energized Line

A Chicago North Area Operator (AO) was conducting a scheduled inspection on an out-of-service transformer. The AO found the following conditions: the primary fuses pulled, no cables attached to the secondary paddles, and cables double-lugged at the bottom of the primary fuse holder. While the transformer appeared to be de-energized, the AO could hear it humming. Upon further investigation the AO found the secondary paddles energized and no cables attached on the buss side of the fuse compartment. The AO determined that a cable from line bay X5357 was attached to the bottom of the fuse mount and this was causing the backfeed.

The AO reported this condition to the OCC and received direction to isolate the secondary and apply tags to warn of the unsafe condition.

The AO demonstrated good use of the Event-Free Performance Tool— Questioning Attitude. It's important that no one assumes equipment is de-energized until it is tested. Make sure you use all your senses to identify potential safety risks, and never walk away from a safety issue until steps are taken to make it safe.



# WEEKLY SAFETY MESSAGES

## Preventing Falls From Rooftops

Fall protection is required for anyone working on roofs or other work areas where the distance to the ground or another surface is more than four feet. A competent person is required to determine fall protection anchor points that can support 5,000 pounds or two times the maximum intended load. In addition, follow these tips when working aloft:

- Wear a harness and always stay connected.
- Make sure your harness fits.
- Use guardrails or lifelines.
- Inspect all fall protection equipment before use.
- Guard or cover all holes, openings and/or skylights.

Falls from rooftops can be prevented. Refer to [SA-EU-P942 Fall Protection Program](#) for additional information.

Always review ways to address fall hazards with your FLS or Local Safety Professional.

## Preventing Falls from Elevated Surfaces

A number of steps have been taken to ensure employees are protected against falls when working from or on elevated surfaces:

- Safety Professionals have attended qualified person fall protection training.
- Fall protection training has been added to refresher training classes.
- Employees have been provided equipment to ensure 100% fall protection is available.

The best way to remain injury-free is to:

- Recognize the hazards of working aloft.
- Understand how hazards can be mitigated.
- Put the needed protection in place.

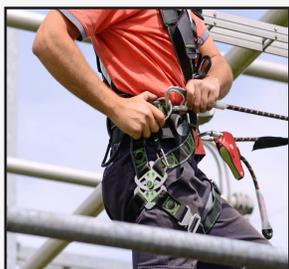
A fall's outcome does not discriminate based on the type of work being done. You owe it to yourself and your loved ones to take the time to ensure you are always protected against a potential fall from an elevation.

For additional information, refer to [SA-EU-P942 Fall Protection Program](#). If you are unsure how to address a fall hazard, please contact your FLS or Local Safety Professional.

## Fall Protection Saves Lives

ComEd must provide fall protection training for those who might be exposed to fall hazards. Additionally, for employees working at four feet or higher, personal fall arrest systems (PFAS) and guardrail systems are provided.

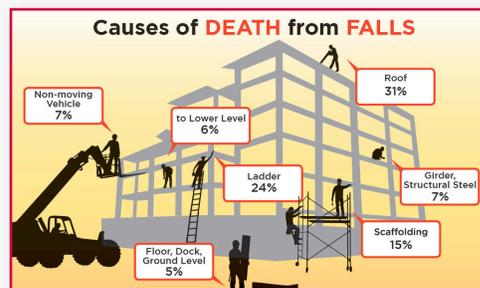
According to the Center for Construction Research and Training, more than half the workers who suffer a fatal fall do so due to not wearing or using PFAS. Please ensure you have your fall protection or contact your Local Safety Professional.



## Causes of Death From Falls

Falls are the leading cause of deaths in the construction industry. Falls from roofs and ladders account for over half of these unfortunate events.

Make sure you always follow the appropriate fall protection requirements when working aloft. Refer to [Safety Rule Book, Section 1.16 Fall Protection](#) for more information.



## Preventing Falls From Aerial Lifts

From 2011-2014, 1,380 workers were injured and 87 died while operating an aerial lift, according to the Center for Construction Research and Training. Fatal falls from aerial lifts can be prevented only if you

- Follow the manufacturer's instructions.
- Use proper fall protection.
- Watch out for uneven ground, potholes, bumps, and debris that could cause the lift to tip over.
- Close lift-platform chains or doors, and check guardrails.
- Do not climb on or lean over guardrails.
- Do not exceed load limits.
- Avoid contact with overhead hazards.



Find more about aerial lift safety on the Safety website.

## OFFICE: Stepladder Safety

Whether you're changing a light bulb or retrieving out-of-reach items, stepladders are very handy at the office. Just because they're simple, though, doesn't mean they're risk-free.

Here are some things you can do to reduce the risk of a fall: Position the stepladder properly. Fully open the ladder on a level surface and lock its spreaders in place. Use a ladder that's long enough. Never climb on the top two steps, and never place the stepladder on boxes or unstable surfaces to gain extra height. Climb and use the ladder carefully. Maintain three-point contact, always face the stepladder treads during use, don't overreach or lean to one side, and never carry objects that are heavy or bulky, or might make going up or down unsafe.

Refer to the [Safety Rule Book, Section 5.5-Ladders and Scaffolds](#) for more information.