



THE ULTIMATE ROOFTOP SAFETY & OSHA FALL PRODUCTION AUDIT CHECKLIST

A Practical Guide for Safety Managers, Facility Managers, and Contractors to Proactively Identify Hazards and Ensure Compliance.



Your First Step Toward a Safer, Compliant Worksite

I'm Safe T. Rex, your resident fall-protection expert. I've seen my share of rooftops that could make your tail curl, and I'm here to make sure yours doesn't end up failing an OSHA inspection or worse.

Falls from height remain one of the leading causes of serious work-related injuries and fatalities. For businesses, the consequences of non-compliance are severe, ranging from significant OSHA fines and project shutdowns to reputational damage and, most importantly, the human cost.

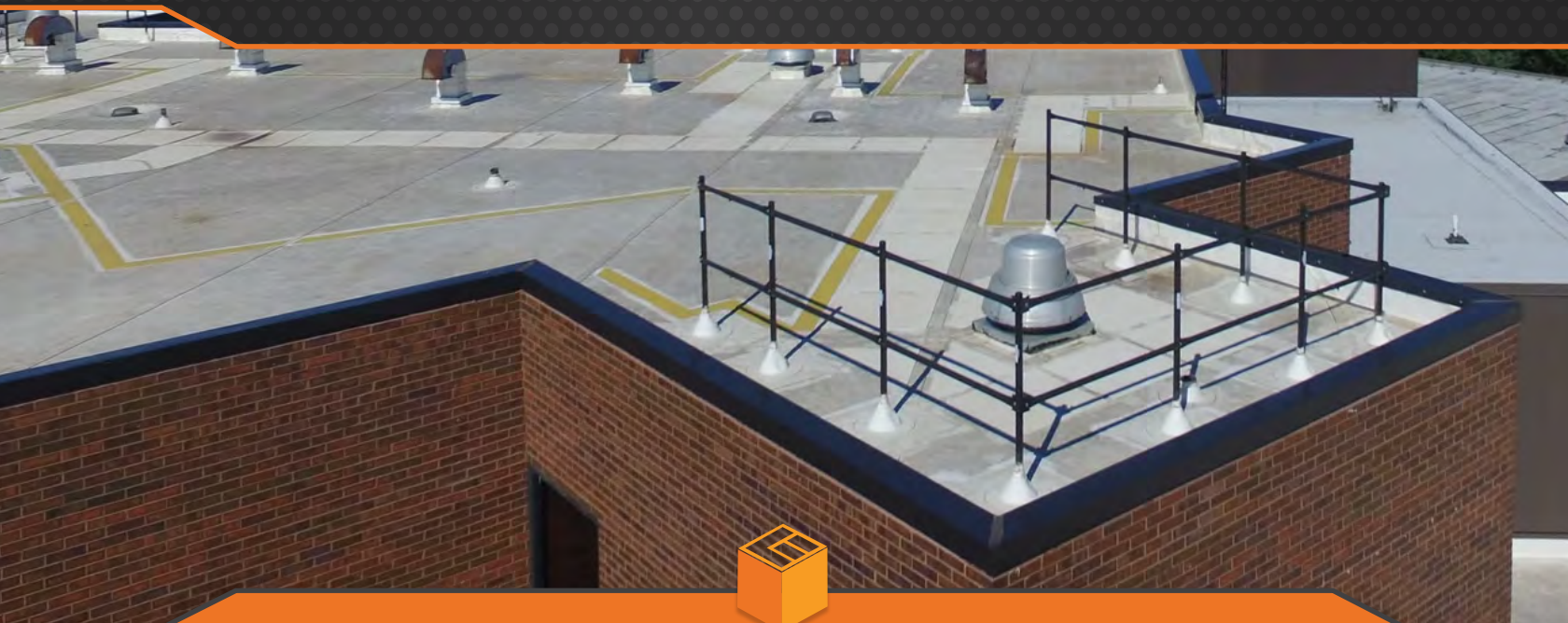
Proactive safety management isn't just about avoiding penalties; it's about protecting your most valuable asset: your people. When crews see safety taken seriously, they work smarter, more confidently and everyone goes home safe and sound. That's real leadership.

This checklist is your **first, bite-sized step** toward building a culture of compliance and confidence. It guides you through a preliminary inspection of your worksite's fall-protection measures, based on key OSHA standards (29 CFR 1926 Subpart M and 29 CFR 1910 Subpart D). Use it to spot gaps, document findings and prioritize fixes before hazards wreck your safety record.

Safe T. Rex Tip:

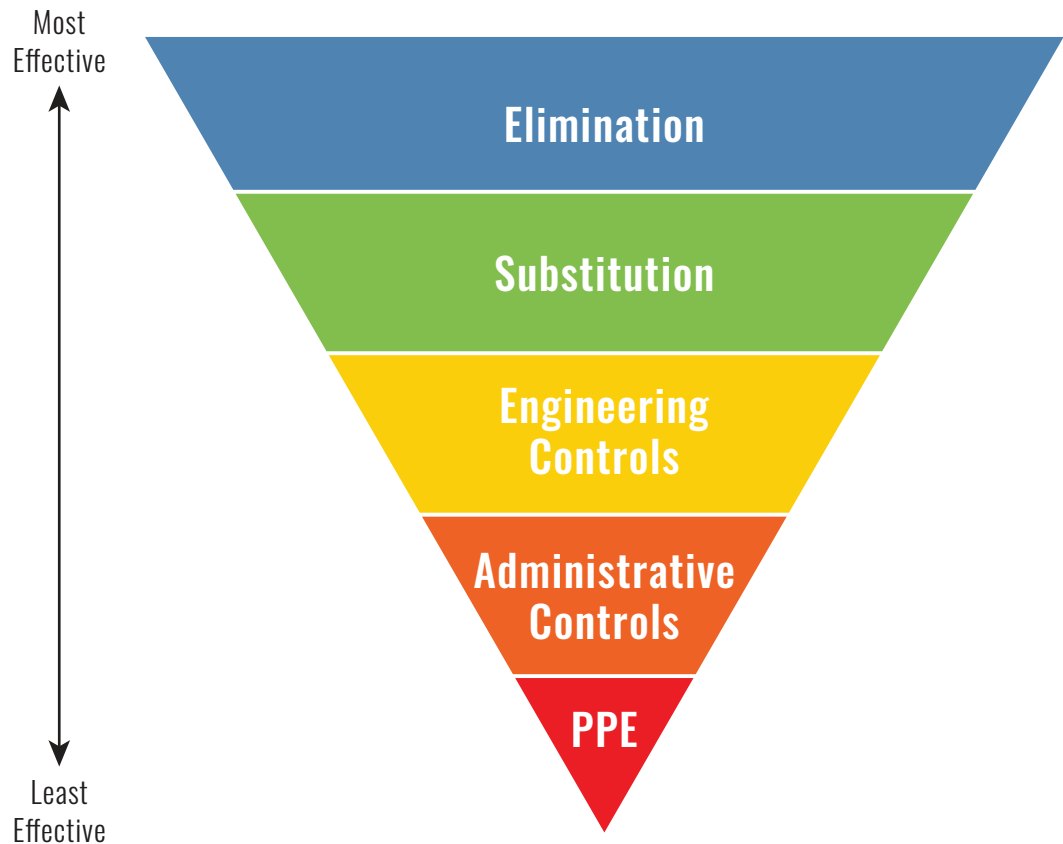
Walk the site with fresh eyes. If something doesn't look safe, it probably isn't. Instinct counts.

Disclaimer: This checklist is an informational tool and not a substitute for a comprehensive audit conducted by a Qualified Person as defined by OSHA. It is not legal advice. Always refer to current OSHA standards and consult a certified safety professional for site-specific guidance.



Before You Begin: Know the Game Plan

Before diving into the checklist, let's talk about OSHA's preferred approach to safety: the Hierarchy of Controls. Think of it as a pyramid where the higher you start, the safer your team becomes.



Elimination: Physically remove the hazard. Can the work be done from the ground instead of at height? (Most effective)

Substitution: Replace the hazard with a safer alternative.

Engineering Controls: Isolate people from the hazard. This doesn't rely on worker behavior. Think guardrails, permanent anchor points and mobile fall carts.

Administrative Controls: Change how people work with training, signage, policies and such.

PPE: Personal Protective Equipment is your last line of defense. It only works when used and inspected correctly. (Least effective)

We always say: don't rely on muscle memory when you can rely on engineering. Let your gear and your plan do the heavy lifting.

Safe T. Rex Says:

The safest rooftop protects workers without them even thinking about it. That's what I call passively safe. Our goal is to engineer hazards to extinction, one rooftop at a time.



Instructions

Walk the worksite and answer each question. Use the Notes column for details, issues and corrective actions. This isn't a test. It's a tool to protect your crew.

Section 1: General Assessment & Planning		
	Yes, No, N/A	Notes / Action Required
1.1 Is there a written, site-specific fall-protection plan in place?		
1.2 Has a "Competent Person" been designated to identify hazards and take corrective action?		Name:
1.3 Are all employees exposed to fall hazards trained on recognition, procedures and equipment use? Check training records.		
1.4 Is there a documented rescue plan in the event of a fall?		



Safe T. Rex Tip:

A plan only works if it's written down and followed. Verbal plans vanish faster than coffee at a morning safety meeting.



Section 2: Walking / Working Surfaces (Roofs, Platforms, etc.)

	Yes, No, N/A	Notes / Action Required
2.1 Are all unprotected sides and edges 4 ft. (general industry) or 6 ft. (construction) or more above a lower level protected by a guardrail, safety net or personal fall-arrest system? Measure heights. Note specific areas (e.g., roof edge near HVAC units).		
2.2 Are skylights and roof openings covered or guarded to prevent falls? Check covers can support 2× the intended load.		
2.3 Are warning lines or designated areas used correctly for temporary work on low-slope roofs? Warning lines > 6 ft. from edge.		

Safe T. Rex Tip:

If a skylight looks fragile, treat it like it's an eggshell.

Section 3: Ladders & Stairways

	Yes, No, N/A	Notes / Action Required
3.1 Are fixed ladders > 24 ft. equipped with a ladder-safety or personal fall-arrest system? Cages are no longer compliant for new installs.		
3.2 Do portable ladders extend at least 3 ft. above the upper landing surface?		
3.3 Are stairways with 4 or more risers equipped with a standard stair rail?		

Safe T. Rex Tip:

Three feet above the landing keeps crew members from overreaching and overbalancing.



Section 4: Guardrail Systems

	Yes, No, N/A	Notes / Action Required
4.1 Is the top edge of the guardrail 42 in. (+/- 3 in.) above the walking/working level? Tip: Measure in several places.		
4.2 Is a midrail installed halfway between the top edge and the walking surface?		
4.3 Can the guardrail system withstand 200 lb. of force applied downward/outward? Double check for stability and loose fittings.		
4.4 Are toeboards installed where there's danger of falling objects?		

Safe T. Rex Tip:

A solid guardrail is like a good fence. Strong, reliable and keeps everyone where they belong.



Section 5: Personal Fall-Arrest Systems (PFAS)

	Yes, No, N/A	Notes / Action Required
<p>5.1 Are anchorages independent and capable of supporting 5,000 lb. per employee attached? Check engineering documents or certification.</p> <p><i>An anchor either supports 5,000 lbs. per employee attached or is used as part of a complete personal fall arrest system. Note that this anchorage unit is never intended to withstand a force of 5,000 lbs. per user, but rather to be used as part of a complete personal fall arrest system.</i></p>		
<p>5.2 Are full-body harnesses and lanyards inspected before each use for damage or wear?</p>		
<p>5.3 Are PFAS components (harness, lanyard, anchor) compatible and, where required, from the same manufacturer?</p>		
<p>5.4 Have calculations confirmed total fall distance prevents a worker from hitting a lower level?</p>		



Safe T. Rex Tip:

Wear and tear are the real predators. Inspect before you connect



You've Found the Gaps. Now Let's Close Them.

Completing this checklist is a step forward, but what you do next matters just as much. I know it can feel like a lot, but you have a pack of pros behind you. The experts can help you move from discovery to done.

Our philosophy is simple: engineer hazards to extinction with passive, compliant, easy-to-use fall-protection systems. That's how you protect your crew and your peace of mind.

Your Next Steps

1. Schedule a Free, No-Obligation Site Assessment

Let one of our qualified safety specialists help you prepare your plan. We'll verify your findings, explain your options and help you build a phased, budget-friendly approach.

[Schedule Your Assessment Now](#)

2. Explore Our Turnkey Fall-Protection Solutions

From non-penetrating guardrails to permanent anchor points and horizontal lifelines, our systems keep you compliant and confident.

- Permanent & Temporary Guardrails
- [Rooftop Anchor Points](#)
- Horizontal Lifelines

3. Contact Our Safety Experts

Have a question about OSHA standards or a tricky rooftop?

[Contact Us](#) or Call (888) 990-2990



Safe T. Rex Tip:

The best safety plans evolve. Keep assessing, keep improving and you'll stay ahead of the hazards.





About Leading Edge Safety

Our mission is simple: prevent falls and protect workers at height. We partner with businesses across industries to design and deliver OSHA-compliant fall-protection solutions that stand the test of time and the elements.

Contact Us:

www.leadingedgesafety.net

(888) 990-2990



Leading Edge Guardrail Estimator



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