

TOOL-BOX TALK

GUARDRAILS

Guardrails protect you from falls that can seriously injure or even kill you. The amount of protection guardrails provide depends on how they are constructed and maintained. Most guardrails are built of strong materials and are usually solid when first put up. As time goes by, however, guardrails often are abused, weakened, broken or moved and not replaced.

GUARDRAIL BASICS

Guardrails should have a top rail, mid rail and toe board that are secured to vertical supports. The top rail should be at a height of 42 inches.

MISSING OR WEAKENED GUARDRAILS

Sometimes sections of guardrails must be taken down so that materials or equipment can be brought in. These sections often aren't replaced or if they are, they're hastily thrown back up. Weakened guardrails are sometimes more dangerous than no guardrails at all, because they give a false sense of security.

FOLLOW THESE RULES

You can help avoid guardrail accidents by following a few simple rules:

1. As you go about your job, get into the habit of checking guardrails. If you discover a weakened or a missing section, correct the situation if you can. Otherwise, report it so that the hazard can be eliminated
2. If you bump a rail with material or equipment, check it at once if you suspect you may have weakened it. If you discover you've broken a rail, upright or toe board, repair it if you can. Otherwise, report it so that the hazard can be repaired
3. When repairing or replacing guardrails, remember you're exposed to the same danger you are providing protection against. Wear proper fall protection
4. If guardrails are taken down so that materials or equipment can be brought in, fall protection should be worn and the rails replaced immediately when the work is complete

KEEP YOUR GUARD (RAILS) UP

Guardrails can be made from different types of material, but the points we've covered here apply to all. If you have suggestions, make them known so that we can continue to keep our guardrails up and our accidents down.

Attendance Signatures

<i>(Sign)</i>	<i>(Date)</i>	<i>(Sign)</i>	<i>(Date)</i>

Additional training and information can be found in the LDD Environmental Health & Safety policies.

Training Provided by (Signature) : _____