

Agriculture Construction Safety

Compliance with safety regulations on agricultural projects is required by OSHA and by all construction insurance/ liability companies. The contractor is to maintain a safe working environment for themselves, their employees, subcontractors, and others who must have access to the site. Detailed knowledge and implementation of safety regulations is their responsibility. Those with more than ten employees must have written safety procedures and document implementation.

Imminent danger situations (hazards that could cause death or serious physical harm) require immediate action, including work stoppage. When NRCS and/or partner personnel observe or become aware of an imminent danger on the work site they will alert the contractor and landowner. They will also advise the landowner that funding and/or technical assistance will be withdrawn if the situation is not corrected. Work may continue after the imminent danger is resolved.

Effective January 1, 2015, all employers must report work-related fatalities, hospitalizations, amputations, and losses of an eye. They can contact the 24-hour OSHA hotline at 1-800-321-OSHA (6742) or their regional OSHA office. See OSHA standards 29 CFR 1904.39 for more information.

Soil Cave-In Protection

- Applies to all excavation over five feet in depth.
- OSHA has regulations set forth in Standards 29 CFR 1926 -Subpart P.
- Options include: sloping, shoring, or working from a safe distance.
- See “Fact Sheet” – SOIL CAVE IN – A FATAL SLIP for general information.

Fall Protection

- This applies to all areas where an individual could fall six feet or more.
- OSHA regulations in 29 CFR Parts 1910 for General Industry and 1926 for the Construction Industry apply to agricultural construction.
- OSHA 29 CFR 1926 subpart L deals with scaffolds and 29 CFR 1926 Subpart M deals with overall fall protection, including but not limited to cast-in-place concrete work, leading edge work, pre-cast concrete erection, tying reinforcement steel, truss installation, and roof construction.
- Options include: warning line system, safety monitors, mechanical equipment, controlled access area, covers, safety nets, scaffolding, guardrail system, and personal fall arrest.
- Selected method(s) shall be implemented at the start of construction.

Underground and Overhead Utility Protection

- Contractor is required to do their own utility check via PA-ONE Call system (811).
- Landowner and/or contractor shall contact any overhead utilities and prepare a procedure to avoid contact and/or schedule work with utility oversight.
- Landowner is to mark and locate any known private buried utilities within the work area.

NOTE: Critical safety measures may be highlighted in the Project Drawings and Specifications.

