

# SAFETY ALERT



## Working at Heights — Leadership is the Lifeline

### Fatal Falls Are Not Accidents. They Are Failures of Leadership.

In 2023, 865 workers in the United States were killed by falls, slips, and trips—680 of them from falls to lower levels, the highest number on record. **Nearly half of these deaths happened in construction, affecting roofers, ironworkers, HVAC technicians, electricians, and others whose jobs take them off the ground daily.**

**In Canada, falls remain the leading cause of traumatic workplace fatalities, accounting for over 40% of construction deaths every year.** These weren't freak accidents, and they didn't happen to inexperienced workers. Most victims were seasoned professionals—people doing familiar tasks like installing ductwork, replacing solar panels, or checking rooftop units.

**They fell because something was missed—planning, proper equipment, or consistent enforcement.**

### When a Worker Falls, Responsibility Falls on the Leaders

Regulatory bodies are no longer tolerating ignorance, inaction, or ineffective policies. Courts across North America are now holding supervisors, site leads, and business owners criminally liable when preventable deaths occur under their watch.

#### Recent cases:

- Ontario (2022): 30 days in jail for a contractor after a fatal fall.
- Alberta (2023): \$100,000 fine to a supervisor who failed to enforce safety.
- British Columbia (2024): Owner convicted under the Workers Compensation Act.

This is no longer just about compliance. It's about criminal accountability. If you're in charge, you are responsible.

## The 5 Critical Responsibilities for Safe Work at Heights

Being a leader means doing more than hoping everyone “knows better.” It means building a system where safe practices are not optional—they're enforced, repeatable, and audited.

### 1. Establish, Communicate, and Enforce Safety Standards

A culture of safety doesn't happen by chance—it's built by leadership. Supervisors must set clear expectations for fall protection, inspections, and emergency planning. Everyone must be trained not just on what the standards are, but why they exist. Supervisors must lead visibly and correct unsafe behaviors immediately.

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*The 1 Solution to keep your people safe and grow an excellent business.*

## 2. Conduct Daily, Site-Specific Hazard Assessments

Conditions change. Even a fall from 12 feet can be fatal. Sites must be assessed daily by competent personnel, with hazards documented and reviewed based on both probability and severity.

## 3. Plan Work at Heights with Detail and Intention

Being 'careful' is not a plan. Every job involving work at heights must have a written scope, personnel competencies, access methods, fall protection strategy, and documented rescue procedures.

## 4. Use Fall Protection That Works—And Use It Correctly

Gear must be present, properly anchored, and worn correctly. Supervisors are responsible for confirming proper use at the start of each day or shift.

## 5. Prepare for Rescue—Because Survival Is on the Clock

A fall arrest is only the start. Without fast, rehearsed rescue protocols, a suspended worker can die in minutes. Teams must practice and be ready.

## The Bottom Line

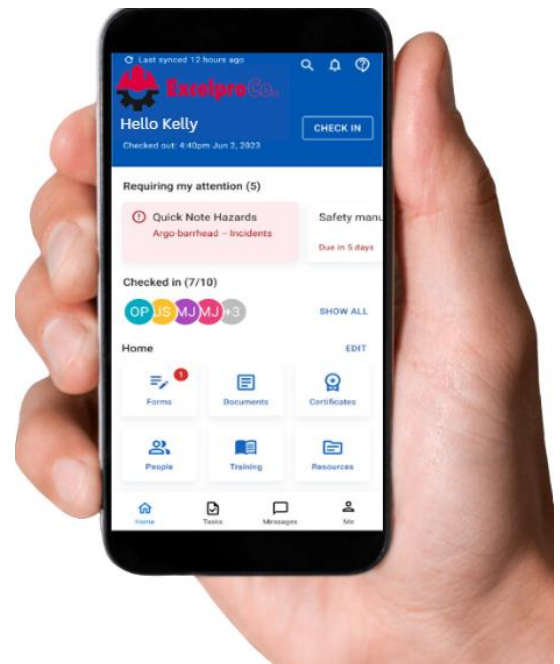
No one plans to fall. But without structure, someone always does. Safety leadership means putting systems in action—not just policies on paper. Because when someone falls, it could be the end of their life—and your career.

## Get the Support You Need to Lead Safely

1Life Workplace Safety Solutions helps operationalize fall protection systems with practical tools, coaching, and measurable frameworks.

**Ready to protect your people—and your position?**

**Start your Free Demo Today at [www.1LifeSoftware.com](http://www.1LifeSoftware.com)**



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