



WEEKLY SAFETY TALK #6: TAILGATE DISCUSSION GUIDE

Fall Clearance: How Far You Fall Before the System Stops You

Foreman: work through these with the crew on site. Point at the actual roof, the actual gear. Then run the quick check and sign off.

TALK IT THROUGH (10 MINUTES, ON THE JOB SITE)

1 How much room does a 6-foot shock-absorbing lanyard need to stop a fall?

Prompt: About 19.5 feet from a foot-level anchor, about 13.5 feet from a D-ring-height anchor, and about 12.5 feet with the anchor overhead, measured from the surface you stand on. Run today's setup on the worksheet below.

2 Where does our clearance measurement stop?

Prompt: At the first lower level you could contact: a porch roof, a scaffold deck, or a parked truck counts, not just the ground. What is actually below today's work area?

3 Our anchor is at foot level. What does that change?

Prompt: You fall your body height plus the lanyard, about 11 feet, before the absorber engages, so the tie-off needs equipment rated for it. Check the label on what came off the truck before anyone clips in.

4 What happens if you slip while working off to the side of the anchor?

Prompt: Swing fall: you swing back beneath the anchor, pick up speed, and end up lower than the straight-down math predicted. Keep the anchor above the work and move it as the work moves. Who is side-loading an anchor right now?

5 Can we make fall arrest work on this roof, or do we rig restraint?

Prompt: Mount the anchor high on the slope, keep the slack out of the line, and run the numbers. If the line cannot reach the edge, you are in restraint and clearance stops being the limit. Which fits today's roof?

QUICK CHECK: CIRCLE THE ANSWERS AS A CREW

- A. Clearance for a 6-ft shock lanyard on a foot-level anchor: About 6 ft About 12 ft About 19.5 ft
B. Your clearance measurement runs down to: The ground, always The first thing you can hit
C. Working off to the side of your anchor risks: Nothing if the anchor holds A swing fall

CREW SIGN-OFF (29 CFR 1926.503(b) requires written training certification)

NAME (PRINT)	SIGNATURE	DATE

Foreman / competent person: _____ Job site: _____ Date: _____

Key: A) About 19.5 ft B) The first thing you can hit (1926.502(d)(16)(iii)) C) A swing fall

For information purposes only; all plans must be approved by a Competent or Qualified Person before work begins, as required by OSHA.
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