

## Home Builder Safety

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An estimated 1.6 million employees work in construction, half of which is residential construction. Residential construction involves smaller projects including home remodels, kitchen and bathroom upgrades, and homebuilding.

Because home building involves smaller projects, DOSH inspections are less likely. However, this fact is not an excuse for neglect. It is always vital to focus on safety and avoid hazards. Below are the most common types of hazards.

### ***Falls***

If you're working on a roof, make sure to tie off. Don't climb a scaffold unless it's been approved by a qualified person. Make sure areas are free from slipping hazards such as ice, grease, sawdust, and oils.

### ***Struck-by Injuries***

Wear your hard hat! Know who is working above you. On a scaffold, on the roof, on an upper floor – don't work where objects might fall on you from above. Wear high visibility clothes so people operating equipment and driving vehicles can see you.

### ***Caught In***

Never go into a trench that is 5 feet or deeper unless it's protected by sloping, shoring, benching, or a trench shield system. Never walk, stand, or work between moving and fixed objects. Make sure that the rotating and moving parts of the tools you use are guarded.

### ***Electrocution***

Call 811 to locate utilities before you start digging. Keep tools, equipment, and yourself at least 10 feet away from overhead powerlines. Only use tools that are double-insulated or properly grounded with GFCI's.

### ***Isolation***

Working alone is not uncommon on a residential job, but it's much more dangerous than working on a crew. A minor injury could end up being a serious or fatal injury. If you break your hip in the bottom of the basement of an unfinished home when it's 10 degrees, you could die of exposure before anyone at the office knows you're in trouble. Take precautions and check in regularly when you're working alone.

