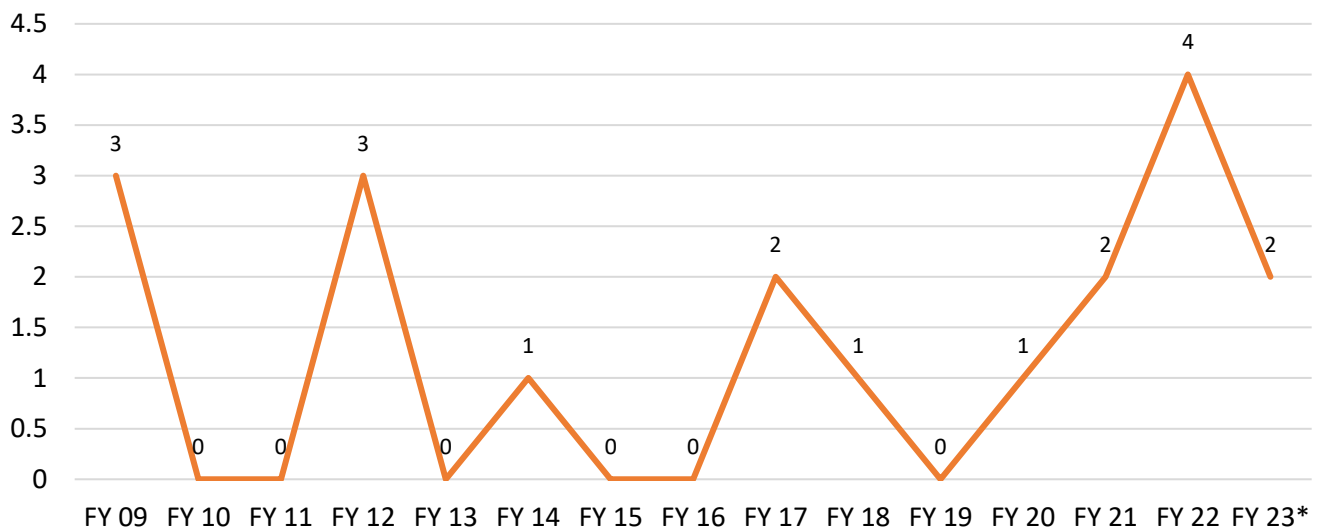


### SE TX Skylight Hazard Alert\* (Feb 2023)

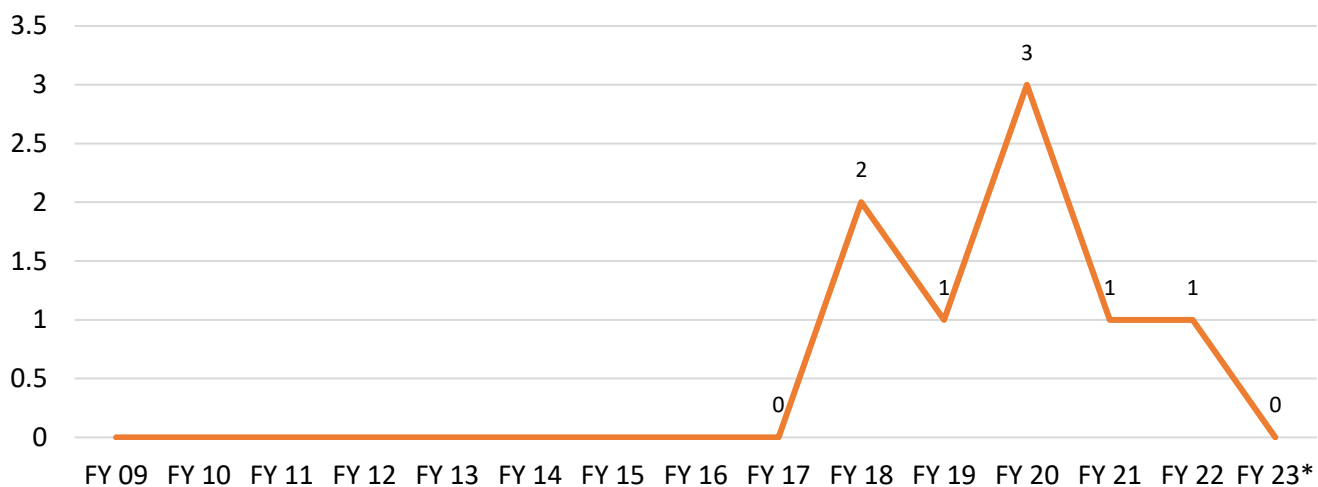
In the past several years, falls through skylights appear to be a much more frequent occurrence. In Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 there were four fatal falls and one serious injury. In FY 2023 we've had two fatal falls already, both in January of 2023. Using guardrails, guarding, covers, and personal fall arrest systems can prevent these falls and protect workers from serious injury or death. Buildings with skylights tend to be very high, more than one story tall, and the falls have been from heights up to 40 feet onto hard surfaces. Let's spread the word that working around skylights without being protected from falls can be deadly. Let's send everyone home safely – every day.



#### SE TX Fatal Skylight Related Falls\*\*



#### SE TX Fatal Skylight Related Falls\*\*



## SE TX Skylight Incidents by Industry NAICS\*\*\*

NAICS	Industry	Incidents
238160	Roofing Contractors	12
236220	Commercial and Institutional Building Construction	3
238220	Plumbing, Heating, and Air-Conditioning Contractors	3
236115	New Single-Family Housing Construction	1
236210	Industrial Building Construction	1
238190	Other Foundation, Structure, and Building Exterior Contractors	1
238210	Electrical Contractors and Other Wiring Installation Contractors	1
238990	All Other Specialty Trade Contractors	1
238330	Flooring Contractors	1
423120	Motor Vehicle Supplies and New Parts Merchant Wholesalers	1
517911	Telecommunications Resellers	1
611310	Colleges, Universities, and Professional Schools	1

### SE TX FY 23 Skylight Related Incidents\*\*

January 2023 – NAICS 238990 - Employee fell 20' through a skylight while removing steel roofing panels during a demolition project. He was lift lighted to hospital and died at the hospital.

January 2023 – NAICS 238220 - Two employees had accessed the roof of a warehouse to perform work on an air conditioning unit. While approaching the area, one employee stepped on a skylight and fell through and landed on the concrete floor approximately 18' below and suffered head injuries. He was transported to the hospital and died 37 minutes after arrival.

### SE TX FY 22 Skylight Related Incidents\*\*

November 2021 – 238160 - Employee was working on a commercial roof and fell through a skylight approximately 40' onto a warehouse floor. He was pronounced dead on scene by attending paramedics.

January 2022 – NAICS 238160 - Employee was in the process of unwinding a hose on a power washer on the roof of a commercial building and fell through the skylight 30' to the ground.

March 2022 – NAICS 236220 - Two employees were on a roof of a warehouse conducting a visual inspection for what repairs were needed. One employee went down a ladder back to ground level when he heard the other employee hit the ground in the warehouse when he fell through a skylight.

April 2022 – NAICS 238330 - Employee fell about 36' through a skylight while walking backwards using a scarfing machine when he tripped and fell onto the skylight.

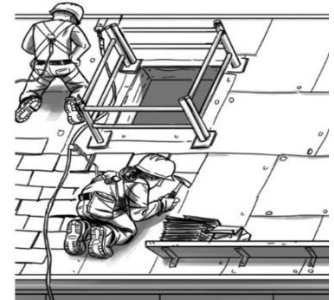
### Worker Tips to protect themselves from falls through skylights and roof openings<sup>1</sup>:

- Never sit on, lean against, or step on a skylight or any covering placed over a hole in a roof or floor. The material may not support your weight.
- Guard or securely cover all holes you have created or uncovered before you leave the work area. Other workers might not notice an uncovered hole and fall through.
- Ask your supervisor for safety procedures to follow when covering or guarding a hole.

- Obtain fall protection information from your employer or from the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) website [www.osha.gov](http://www.osha.gov).
- Always use a personal fall arrest system (PFAS) that includes a full-body harness, lanyard, connectors, and appropriate anchorage points (tie-offs) when working over an unguarded or uncovered opening more than 6 feet above a lower level (4 feet in general industry), for example, while you are installing a skylight or ventilation unit in an opening that cannot be guarded or covered.
- If you use a PFAS, inspect it daily and report any damage or deficiencies to your supervisor. Tie off only to those anchorage points that your employer has identified as safe.
- Immediately tell your supervisor about any unguarded skylights, roof or floor openings, or other fall hazards in your workplace.
- Participate in all safety and health training programs offered by your employer.
- Follow safe work practices identified by your employer.
- Ask your employer for instructions if you do not know how to perform your job safely.

**Employer Tips to help prevent worker injuries and fatalities from falls through skylights and roof openings<sup>1</sup>:**

- Develop, implement, and enforce a comprehensive, written fall prevention program that, at a minimum, complies with applicable OSHA fall prevention standards.
- Assign a Competent Person to inspect the worksite before work begins to identify fall hazards and to determine the appropriate fall prevention system for workers.
- For work around skylights and roof and floor openings, require, provide, and ensure the use of appropriate fall prevention systems that use one of the following:
  - Covers or screens
  - Railings or guardrails
  - PFAS, including a full-body harness, lanyard, connectors, and appropriate anchorage points (tie-offs)
- Conduct periodic scheduled and unscheduled inspections to ensure that the fall prevention system is used and maintained correctly and provides adequate protection against falls.
- Train workers to recognize fall hazards associated with working near skylights and roof and floor openings.
- Train workers in the correct fall prevention procedures they are to follow.



**Resources**

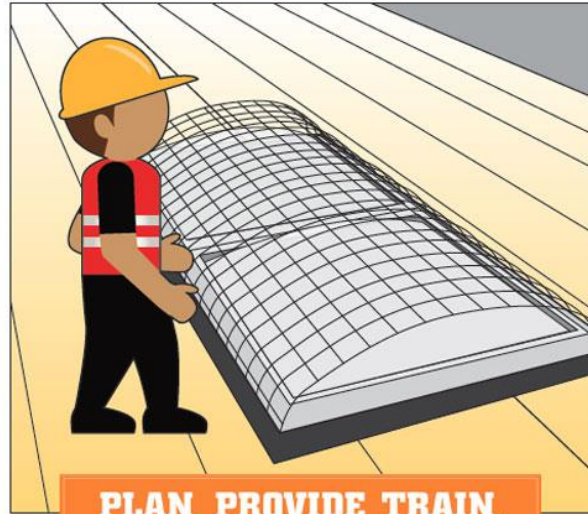
	<p>OSHA Fall Prevention Video  <a href="https://www.osha.gov/dts/vtools/construction/skylight_fnl_eng_web.html">https://www.osha.gov/dts/vtools/construction/skylight_fnl_eng_web.html</a></p>
	<p><sup>1</sup>NIOSH Alert Preventing Falls Through Skylights and Roof and Floor Openings  <a href="https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/docs/2004-156/">https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/docs/2004-156/</a></p>
	<p>CDC/NIOSH/CPWR Skylight Preventing Falls through Skylights and Holes Infographic  <a href="https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/construction/infographics.html">https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/construction/infographics.html</a></p>

# PREVENTING FALLS THROUGH SKYLIGHTS AND HOLES

During 2011-2016, 165 workers died after falling through a skylight or hole

## REMEMBER:

- ✓ Never sit, step on, or lean against a skylight. Guard or cover any existing skylights.
- ✓ If you create, uncover, or notice a hole:
  - Guard or securely cover the hole
  - Label the cover with "hole" or "cover"
- ✓ Always use one of the following:
  - Covers or screens
  - Railings or guardrails
  - Personal Fall Arrest System, such as a full-body harness



**PLAN. PROVIDE. TRAIN.**

*Three simple steps to preventing falls.*



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[www.stopconstructionfalls.com](http://www.stopconstructionfalls.com)



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RESEARCH AND TRAINING

Sources: NIOSH Alert: Preventing Falls of Workers through Skylights and Roof and Floor Openings: [www.cdc.gov/niosh/docs/2004-156/pdfs/2004-156.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/docs/2004-156/pdfs/2004-156.pdf)

"Fatal occupational Injuries due to fall to lower level incurred by workers in the construction industry (public and private), 2011-2016;" U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics; Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries; accessed February 2018.

\*This information has been developed by an OSHA Compliance Assistance Specialist and is intended to assist employers, workers, and others as they strive to improve workplace health and safety. While we attempt to thoroughly address specific topics [or hazards], it is not possible to include discussion of everything necessary to ensure a healthy and safe working environment in a presentation of this nature. Thus, this information must be understood as a tool for addressing workplace hazards, rather than an exhaustive statement of an employer's legal obligations, which are defined by statute, regulations, and standards. Likewise, to the extent that this information references practices or procedures that may enhance health or safety, but which are not required by a statute, regulation, or standard, it cannot, and does not, create additional legal obligations. Finally, over time, OSHA may modify rules and interpretations in light of new technology, information, or circumstances; to keep apprised of such developments, or to review information on a wide range of occupational safety and health topics, you can visit OSHA's website at [www.osha.gov](http://www.osha.gov). \* Partial FY 23. \*\*Incident narratives are based on a first report of injury and may not reflect the final finding in the incident. \*\*\* Primary NAICS.

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