RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY, LABOR & ECONOMIC GROWTH
Michigan Occupational Safety & Health Administration (MIOSHA)

STEVEN H. HILFINGER
DIRECTOR

April 4, 2011

Company
Address
City, Michigan Zip

Dear Sir or Madam:

There are new minimum requirements for residential fall protection in Michigan. The number one cause of death and serious injury at residential construction sites is falls.

At the request of the ***National Association of Home Builders***, the federal Occupational Health and Safety Administration (OSHA) changed its requirements for residential fall protection. OSHA's new residential fall protection requirements go into effect June 16, 2011.

The Michigan Occupational Safety and Health Administration (MIOSHA) is required to adopt these changes, which will also go into effect June 16, 2011.

The key change requires employees working six feet or more above a lower level to use guardrails, safety nets, or a personal fall arrest system. When conventional fall protection is not feasible, a written site-specific plan may be used.

Falls accounted for 29 percent of construction workplace fatalities investigated by MIOSHA over the past five years. MIOSHA, in partnership with the ***Michigan Association of Home Builders (MAHB)***, is launching a "***Residential Fall Protection Initiative***" to help employers protect their workers and comply with the new requirements.

The MIOSHA Consultation Education and Training (CET) Division and the MAHB are offering Residential Fall Protection training **seminars** around the state. For more information contact the CET Division at 517.322.1809 or go to www.michigan.gov/mioshatraining. You can also go to http://www.buildingmichigan.org and click on the education link to see a list of seminars offered by local home builder associations.

Enclosed is a copy of the **Residential Fall Protection Fact Sheet** which provides basic compliance information. The fact sheet and more detailed information on compliance are available on our website at www.michigan.gov.miosha, in the ***MIOSHA Initiatives*** section, under ***Residential Fall Protection Initiative***.

MIOSHA and MAHB are sending this letter and fact sheet to more than 8,500 Michigan residential contractors to help them address the fall hazards in residential construction. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Douglas J. Kalinowski,
MIOSHA Director

Lee Schwartz,
MAHB Executive Vice President for Government Relations

Enclosure

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Auxiliary aids, services and other reasonable accommodations are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.

7150 HARRIS DRIVE • P.O. BOX 30643 • LANSING, MICHIGAN 48909-8143
www.michigan.gov/miosha • Phone : (517) 322-1817 • Fax: (517) 322-1775