



# Tool Box Talk

## Guardrails for Fall Protection

### Special points of interest:

- Guardrails are a positive conventional fall protection system.
- Guardrails are needed on any wall openings 18 inches or greater in width and 30 inches in height with exposure to a fall hazard of 6 feet or more.
- Top rails system must support 200 lbs. or greater downward and outward force.

### Duty to Have Protection:

Each employee shall be protected from falling from exposed sides or edges, and objects falling from work areas 6 feet above lower levels.

The protection can be guardrails, personal fall arrest systems, safety nets, or covers.

Guardrails are the preferred method as they are passive systems that protect workers below from falling objects and workers on the elevated work area from falling off.

### Guardrails:

Guardrails are an accepted form of Fall Protection in many situations: Residential, Commercial, Industrial, Bridges.

Guardrails can be made of many different types of materials: wood, steel, wire rope, composites.

The guardrail top rail must be able to withstand 200lbs of downward and outward force.

The guardrail mid-rail must be able to withstand 150lbs of downward and outward force.

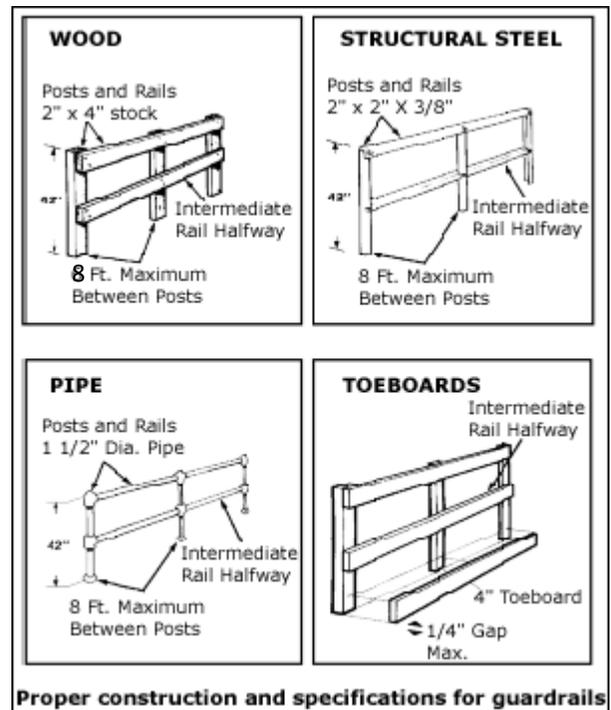
Top rails must be 42 inches tall plus or minus 3 inches as measured adjacent to the rail.

Mid-rails should midway between top rail and working surface.

Screens, mesh or toe-boards must be used if there is the possibility of things falling over the edge.

Guardrails must be used when wall openings are larger than 18" wide and 30" tall.

Window and door openings.



Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs  
Michigan Occupational Safety and Health Administration  
Consultation, Education & Training Division  
530 W. Allegan Street, Box 30643  
Lansing, MI 48933

# Attendance Record

Company: \_\_\_\_\_

Topic: Guardrails

Trainer: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

	Signature		Signature
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Comments: