



Creating an Online Catalogue of Fall Prevention Devices for Residential Construction

Fall Protection Resource for New Home Construction

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Overview

Falls from height remain the most common cause of construction worker fatalities, and falls continue to happen at an alarming rate – especially in residential construction. OSHA has recently imposed more stringent safety standards on the sector, but many residential construction contractors still have limited knowledge of the array of fall protection devices commercially available. The research team sought to develop a user-friendly online inventory (<http://www.ot.wustl.edu/fttech/homepage.htm>) of fall protection devices suitable to residential construction. Leveraging substantial experience in construction fall prevention research, and an extensive network of industry contacts, the Washington University team developed a web-based catalogue users could search either by the type of fall prevention device or by the stage of construction in which it is used.

Key Findings

- The number and variety of fall protection devices with applications for residential construction is increasing. Researchers identified over 300 different devices, ultimately describing over 150 devices produced by 23 different manufacturers on the website.
- Most manufacturers of fall protection devices are interested in increasing use of fall protection methods in residential construction; 26 of the 34 manufacturers contacted readily consented to researchers' use of their proprietary images and information for the site.
- Users perceived that the website contained accurate content, was well-organized and easy to navigate, and increased their awareness of fall protection devices. Some said that they will increase use of fall protection devices as a result of visiting the website.
- National agencies, associations, organizations, and peer-reviewed venues have committed to promote the website as a fall protection resource well-suited to residential construction firms.
- Within the first two weeks of dissemination, there were over 1,000 unique visitors to the website and at least 85% of these visitors remained engaged in the website after visiting the landing page.

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See full report: <http://bit.ly/1x3pFZu>

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