

# CONSTRUCTION SAFETY: The "Fatal Four" Inspection Checklist

This checklist covers the most common high-priority items OSHA inspectors look for on construction sites. Use this for daily pre-shift "Toolbox Talks" or as a quick-reference during a walk-around.

## 1. Fall Protection (Leading cause of citations)

- **Guardrails:** Top rails (42"), mid-rails, and toe-boards are secure and in place.
- **Personal Fall Arrest Systems (PFAS):** Harnesses are inspected for wear; lanyards are attached to approved anchor points (5,000 lbs capacity).
- **Hole Covers:** Any floor openings 2" or larger are covered, secured, and marked with "HOLE" or "COVER."
- **Ladders:** Extended 3 feet above the landing; secured at the top/bottom; used with 3-point contact.

## 2. Struck-By Hazards

- **Vehicles/Heavy Equipment:** Backup alarms are functional; spotters are used for low-visibility maneuvers.
- **Hard Hats:** Required for every person on-site, including visitors and inspectors.
- **Secured Materials:** Stacks of brick/lumber are stable and limited in height to prevent toppling.
- **High-Vis Gear:** All personnel near traffic or equipment are wearing Class 2 or 3 vests.

## 3. Caught-In/Between Hazards

- **Trenching/Excavation:** Trenches 5' or deeper have a protective system (shoring, shielding, or sloping).
- **Access/Egress:** Ladders or ramps are placed within 25' of all workers in a trench.
- **Machine Guarding:** All rotating parts, nip points, and power tools have factory guards in place.
- **Spoil Piles:** Excavated dirt is kept at least 2 feet back from the edge of the trench.

## 4. Electrocution Hazards

- **GFCI Protection:** All 120V, single-phase, 15/20A outlets have GFCI protection (or an Assured Equipment Grounding Program).

- **Cord Conditions:** Extension cords have no nicks, exposed wires, or taped-over damage. Ground prongs are intact.
- **Clearance:** Ladders and scaffolding are kept at least 10 feet away from overhead power lines.
- **Lockout/Tagout (LOTO):** Energy sources are neutralized and locked during maintenance.

---

### **Quick Response Checklist for the Site Superintendent**

1. **Stop Work** in the immediate area of the inspection (if safe).
2. **Assemble the "Inspection Team"** (Safety Lead and Project Manager).
3. **Check PPE** of the inspector before they leave the trailer.
4. **Open the Digital Job Box** (Ensure SDS and Training Logs are accessible)