

# RESIDENTIAL SITE PROTOCOL: OSHA Field Guide

Residential construction is under heavy scrutiny for **Fall Protection** and **Multi-Employer** liability. Use this guide to manage inspections on home-building sites.

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## I. ARRIVAL AT THE RESIDENCE

- **Verify Identity:** Ask for the inspector's photo ID and business card.
- **Notify the GC/Superintendent:** Residential sites are often spread out; ensure the person in charge is present before the walk-around begins.
- **Safety Hold:** If safe to do so, pause high-risk work (like roofing or framing) while the inspector is at the trailer/truck to ensure everyone is tied off correctly.

## II. RESIDENTIAL FOCUS AREAS

- **Fall Protection (The #1 Priority):** OSHA requires fall protection for heights of **6 feet or more**. Inspectors often spot violations from the street.
- **Scaffolding & Pump Jacks:** Ensure all platforms are fully planked and have proper guardrails or that workers are using harnesses.
- **Personal Protective Equipment (PPE):** On a residential site, this usually means **Hard Hats, Safety Glasses, and Work Boots**—no sneakers or ball caps.

## III. THE WALK-AROUND (Residential Rules)

- **Site Housekeeping:** Residential sites can get messy. Clear debris, scrap lumber, and tripping hazards from walkways and stairs.
- **Ladder Safety:** Ensure ladders are on stable ground (not mud or loose bricks). They must extend **3 feet** past the roof eave.
- **Mirroring:** If the inspector takes a photo of a framing error or a lack of toe-boards, take the **exact same photo**.
- **Subcontractor Liability:** As a GC, you can be cited for a Sub's safety failures. As a Sub, you are responsible for protecting your own crew regardless of what the GC provides.

## IV. RECORDS (The "Job Box" List)

- **Safety Manual:** Site-specific safety plan for the build.
- **Training Logs:** Proof that every worker on the roof or in a trench has been trained.
- **SDS Binder:** Must include Safety Data Sheets for paints, adhesives, and treated lumber.

- **OSHA 300 Logs:** Must be available even if the main office is elsewhere.
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## **RESIDENTIAL SAFETY CHECKLIST**

- **Roofing/Framing:** Every worker above 6' is using a harness, guardrails, or safety nets.
- **Wall Openings:** Window and door openings on upper floors have temporary guardrails.
- **Stairways:** Temporary or permanent stairs are in place before work starts on the next floor; handrails are installed.
- **Power Cords:** No "daisy-chaining" (cords plugged into other cords). All cords are GFCI protected.
- **Truss Bracing:** Roof trusses are braced according to manufacturer specs to prevent collapse.
- **Excavation:** Foundations or utility trenches over 5' deep are shored or sloped.

**PRO TIP:** Inspectors often use binoculars or cameras from the public sidewalk before even stepping onto the lot. Assume you are being watched the moment you step onto the site.