



Oregon Occupational Safety & Health Division Technical Guidance

DATE: February 25, 2009

REVISED: January 19, 2017

TO: All Oregon OSHA Staff

FROM: Trena VanDeHey, Standards & Appeals Manager

SUBJECT: Climbing Rebar

Federal OSHA issued a letter of interpretation on May 19, 1997 that allows employees to climb or move on vertical rebar assemblies up to 24 feet above lower levels without fall protection. This letter was the basis for a similar statement in a previous version of our fall protection publication and a Construction Depot article currently on our website. The issue was discussed and our position was supported at a Construction Advisory Committee meeting.

Oregon OSHA does allow workers to climb and move on vertical rebar assemblies to reach a work position without fall protection where:

- The maximum height to climb without fall protection is 24 feet.
- The horizontal bars are evenly spaced on centers, between 6 and 16 inches.
- Once the worker reaches a work station that is over 6 feet or more to the lower level, they must use a personal fall protection system.