

Falls

# Check it's fine before you climb.



**Falls are one of the leading causes of serious injury and death at work in South Australia.**

SafeWork SA is taking action through its Safety at work is a serious job campaign because falls have had devastating impacts on workers, families and workmates. A fall can change a life forever.

## Why falls matter

- Falls from height are a **major workplace hazard**
- About **half of fatal falls occur from heights of 3 metres or less**
- From **2022 – 2025**, falls contributed to:
  - **12 deaths** and **288 serious injuries** reported to SafeWork SA
- ReturnToWork SA data shows there are around 1100 injury claims related to falls per year, costing about \$32 million



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# Simple ways to manage fall risks

## ✓ Before you start

- **Assess the risk** – do you really need to work at height?
- Use the **safest option available** (e.g. work from the ground where possible)
- Make sure a **Safe Work Method Statement (SWMS)** is in place for high risk work
- Check the surface is **stable, dry and clear**

## ✓ When working at height

- Use the **right equipment** for the job (ladders, scaffolds, EWPs)
- Make sure **edges, openings and fragile surfaces** are protected or covered
- Use **fall protection** where required (guardrails, harnesses)

## ✓ Look after yourself and others

- Wear required **PPE**
- Keep work areas **clean and tidy**
- Report hazards, near misses and damaged equipment
- Never take shortcuts – **safety comes first**

# Workers must:

- Take responsibility for their own safety and the safety of others
- Follow all safe work instructions and procedures
- Follow the SWMS where required
- Use safety equipment properly
- Speak up and **report safety issues**

# Employers must manage the risk of falls, including risks:

- From elevated workplaces
- Near edges or openings
- Through fragile surfaces
- From any place where a fall could occur

## Employers must also:

- Provide safe access and exit
- Maintain equipment
- Provide training and supervision

## Remember

- Falls are preventable
- Even a short fall can be fatal
- Check it's fine before you climb



## Safety at work is a serious job.

For more information and resources, visit [safework.sa.gov.au/resources/safety-at-work/falls](https://safework.sa.gov.au/resources/safety-at-work/falls) or scan the QR code.



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