



## **CONN-OSHA Employees Seek To Increase Awareness During National Fall Prevention Week**

WETHERSFIELD, May 30, 2014 – Employees from the Connecticut Department of Labor’s Division of Occupational Safety and Health (CONN-OSHA) will help kick off “National Fall Prevention Week” in this state by participating in a June 2 Safety Stand Down event being coordinated by the Connecticut Department of Transportation (DOT).

To help launch the week-long observance which runs through June 6, CONN-OSHA Director Kenneth Tucker will join DOT employees at the Torrington maintenance garage at 8:30 a.m. June 2 for a Safety Tailgate Talk. During the conversation – a key component of a Safety Stand Down – Tucker, along with DOT managers, supervisors and others will conduct a brief session about on-the- job safety precautions.

“Our goal is to get the word out about the importance of this issue and strategies that can be used to help prevent accidents,” Tucker explains. “Falls account for the highest number – one third overall – of all the deaths recorded for the construction industry each year. In 2012, the most recent period for which we have national figures, 269 of the 775 deaths recorded were due to falls.”

According to Tucker, CONN-OSHA is working closely with federal OSHA, reaching out to employers, workers, industry groups, and civic and community groups in the state to promote the importance of fall protection strategies. “During National Fall Prevention Week we’re hoping that Connecticut employers will take time during the workday to get together with their employees and discuss ladder, scaffolding and roofing work safety.”

The Safety Stand Down is part of OSHA’s ongoing fall prevention campaign started in 2012. Developed in partnership with the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health and its National Occupational Research Agenda program, the effort includes a recently-unveiled national safety Stand Down website located at [www.osha.gov/stopfalls/](http://www.osha.gov/stopfalls/) that emphasizes three basic steps to enhance safety – *Plan, Provide, Train*.

“Visitors to the site will find a good deal of lifesaving information and educational material on planning ahead to prevent possible falls, providing the proper equipment for their workers, and training ideas to help ensure all employees know how to correctly use equipment,” Tucker said.

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