

No Falls Week: help save lives by stopping falls from height

Falls from height remain a major cause of death and injury in the UK construction sector. We asked **David Thomas** (Trustee) and **Hannah Williams** (Charity Manager) of the No Falls Foundation how its annual campaign hopes to address this situation.

What is No Falls Week and what are the event's aims?

No Falls Week is an annual event organised by the No Falls Foundation to promote safe working at height. This year it'll be taking place on 18–22 May.

The No Falls Foundation is the only UK-based charity for the work-at-height sector, dedicated to preventing falls from height and supporting those affected by a fall.

No Falls Week aims to raise awareness about the importance of safe working at height, prevent falls and ensure everyone that works at height comes down safely at the end of their shift.

How big a problem are falls from height in the UK?

It is estimated that over 1M businesses, and 10M workers in the UK carry out work involving some form of working at height every year. Falls from height are the leading cause of workplace fatalities in the UK, with 35 people losing their lives at work due to a fall from height in 2024/25. Figures from the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) show that falls from height were responsible for almost one-third of all workplace deaths in 2025.

There are an even greater number of non-fatal injuries resulting from a fall from height, with almost 5,000 people in Great Britain having been reported injured at work in 2024/25. However, due to underreporting of non-fatal falls from height, the real number is thought to be much higher. The HSE estimates the number of workplace falls from height over the last 10 years may be up to 425,000.



FALLS FROM HEIGHT ARE THE LEADING CAUSE OF WORKPLACE FATALITIES IN THE UK

There are also economic costs associated with these accidents. Up to 416,000 working days were lost through non-fatal falls from height in Great Britain in 2024/25, and the total cost of falls from height was estimated to be over £764M, made up of costs to the employer and the individual, government tax losses and benefit payments.

What can be done to reduce the number of deaths and injuries?

These tragedies are preventable and can be reduced through effective leadership. By raising awareness and promoting safe work at height, organisations can help reduce risks and prevent accidents.

There are clear points of relevance for IStructE members: e.g. how designers address work at height through design-for-safety principles, and how contractors apply the hierarchy of control when planning and executing site activities. The campaign is intended to create space

for precisely this kind of professional reflection and learning.

The No Falls Foundation offers a wealth of informative articles, guides and videos to support these aims. Through these resources, organisations can learn about the latest safety regulations, best practices and innovative technologies designed to prevent falls.

How can organisations get involved?

Organisations can sign up to get involved in the week-long campaign via the No Falls Week website (<https://nofallsweek.org>), where there are a host of toolkits and resources from members of the Access Industry Forum (AIF) to help organisations plan activities.

You can use the resources available to promote No Falls Week internally and externally – share campaign materials, plan your own activities and encourage participation.

You can also raise awareness that the charity exists. Many people affected by a fall from height don't know where to turn. By signposting the No Falls Foundation, you help ensure they receive vital support.

Find out more about No Falls Week and how to get involved at <https://nofallsweek.org/get-involved/>.



NO FALLS WEEK
18 - 22
MAY 2026
Help us save lives by stopping falls