



**POLICY MEMORANDUM**  
Oregon Occupational Safety & Health Division

2/25/09

**TO:** All OSHA  
**FROM:** Marilyn K. Schuster, Policy Manager  
**SUBJECT:** Climbing Rebar

Federal OSHA issued a letter of interpretation dated 5/19/97 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 recent [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 10 feet to the lower level, they must use a personal fall protection system.