

Habitat safety best practices



Habitat best practices are policies, procedures, methods or techniques that meet or exceed Occupational Safety and Health Administration standards and align with Habitat for Humanity International policies to safely manage volunteers on a construction site.

Each local Habitat organization should follow the Habitat best practices below to safely manage volunteers on a construction site.

Habitat Competent Person

- Have a Habitat Competent Person on every active job site at all times.
- The Habitat Competent Person is responsible for the safety of the volunteers on the job site.

Personal protective equipment (PPE)

HEAD PROTECTION

- Wear hard hats at all times when on an active job site.

EYE PROTECTION

- Wear eye protection at all times when on an active job site.

Stairs, ladders and scaffolds

HANDRAIL AND STAIR RAIL HEIGHTS

- Put handrails and stair rails at 36-37 inches.

POTENTIAL FALL DISTANCE

- Use a 3-foot lanyard or self-retracting lifeline as part of your personal fall arrest system, particularly on single-story homes.

GUARDRAIL HEIGHT

- Set all top rail heights at 42 inches.

SCAFFOLD ACCESS GATE

- Use an access gate.

LADDER CAPACITY

- Use only Type IA or IAA capacity ladders.

USING A LADDER FOR ACCESS

- Secure the ladder at all times.

SCAFFOLD FALL PROTECTION

- Provide fall protection when working 6 feet or more above a lower level.

LADDER JACK SCAFFOLD

- Limit use to platform heights of less than 6 feet.

Electrical safety

GROUND FAULT CIRCUIT INTERRUPTER

- Test the GFCI every working day.