Working at height is a reality in refining and petrochemical operations — but serious injuries and fatalities don't have to be. By sharing knowledge, reinforcing best practices and keeping fall prevention top of mind, the industry continues to strengthen its commitment to protecting workers.

Falls from height — defined as four feet or higher — remain one of the leading causes of workplace injuries and fatalities across the refining and petrochemical sector, according to the Occupational Safety & Health Administration (OSHA), the Bureau of Labor Statistics and AFPM's Incident Classification Matrix. This persistent risk demands focused, collective attention.

In response, OSHA launched the National Safety Stand?Down to Prevent Falls Week in 2014, creating a dedicated opportunity for employers to pause work and engage employees in meaningful conversations, training and demonstrations that reinforce safe behaviors.

AFPM and its Safety & Health Committee proudly participate in the annual Stand?Down, sharing practical resources and safety protocols across the industry. Member companies contribute materials focused on inspecting fall protection equipment, securing tools and materials and practicing safe techniques when climbing, descending and working from ladders.

> *"Safety is not proprietary throughout the refining and petrochemical industries," said **AFPM Vice President of Technical Services Lara Swett**. "When we can share practices and address risks of working at height across the industry, everyone benefits."*

Stand?Down is more than a moment of reflection — it's a call to action. By spotlighting fall hazards and reinforcing proven prevention strategies, the industry takes a united step toward safer workplaces for all.

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About AFPM Editorial:

The American Fuel & Petrochemical Manufacturers (AFPM) is the leading trade association representing the makers of the fuels that keep us moving, the petrochemicals that are the essential building blocks for modern life, and the midstream companies that get our feedstocks and products where they need to go. We make the products that make life better, safer and more sustainable — we make progress.

Topics

Occupational Safety