

# Rebar Impalement: Verify the Protection

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Todd Jerome Jenkins | v1.0 | Reviewed October 9, 2026 | Discussion + field checks

## Why this matters

A visible cap may prevent a scratch without protecting someone who falls onto reinforcing steel. Study how people could reach the projection, then verify the protective system for that exposure.

Objective: Identify exposed reinforcing steel and confirm that installed guarding addresses the actual impalement hazard.

## Key hazards or failure points

Falls onto vertical bars; trips into horizontal bars; displaced guards; unsuitable caps; changed access or work above.

## Practical controls

- Plan access and work positions to avoid the exposed steel. Maintain required fall protection; caps do not replace it.
- Guard reinforcing steel onto or into which workers could fall. The responsible person selects a suitable protective arrangement using its design or product evidence.
- Keep the system fitted and secured as specified. Recheck after deliveries, access changes or work that could displace it.

## Verify It in the Field

From a safe position, trace the walkway and work above or beside the bars. Include horizontal projections and the way a trip or fall could occur.

Match the installed guard to its approved use, bar arrangement and actual exposure. Confirm suitability from instructions or design evidence, not color, shape or a steel insert alone.

Inspect fitting, securing and damage by the specified safe method. Record location, source, finding and checker; do not drop weights onto installed protection as a test.

## Stop and reassess

Protect access and hold affected work for exposed projections, displaced or damaged guarding, unknown suitability or changed fall exposure. Obtain an appropriate correction; do not bend or cut structural reinforcement without authorization.

## Ask the crew

1. Where could someone fall onto or into these bars?
2. What evidence shows this system addresses that exposure?
3. What could displace it before the next crew arrives?

Use the task plan and required specialist decisions before exposure.

Sources: OSHA 1926.701(b); applicable protection instructions/design.

Free next step: [JHA/JSA planning & field-verification worksheet](#)

Expanded guidance and separate forms: [toddjeromejenkins.com/toolbox-talks/rebar-impalement-protection](https://toddjeromejenkins.com/toolbox-talks/rebar-impalement-protection)