

Fall Protection



The purpose of this procedure is to ensure that employees are protected from fall hazards in accordance with Federal safety regulations. Supervisors are required to monitor and enforce the use of this procedure. Workers will be responsible to know and follow this safe operating procedure for fall protection. The goal of this procedure is to eliminate or control every fall exposure at our worksites.

Our firm will engineer and utilize fall protection systems. This may include safety nets, standard guardrail (handrail, midrail, toeboard), personal fall arrest systems, fall restraint systems, warning lines and safety monitoring systems.

If standard fall protection is not feasible, all workers must tie off. Tie off must be done with a full body harness and shock absorbing lanyard equipped with double locking snaps. The 1994 OSHA rule prohibits the use of body belts as part of a personal fall arrest system as of January 1, 1998. In addition, only locking type snap-hooks will be permitted for use in personal fall arrest systems and positioning systems as of the same date. The lanyard must be attached to the D-ring in the center of the back and to a structural member capable of supporting a 5,000 pound load in the event of a fall. The tie off point shall be above the head as high as practical. The lanyard can be no longer than six feet.

Employees working from swing scaffolds, boatswain chairs, spider baskets, etc., shall tie off to an independent lifeline which is securely attached to a structural member. Each worker will have a separate lifeline to themselves.

Employees working near electrical equipment will use nylon or other non-conductive lanyards. Steel slings will not be used.

All fall protection equipment will be protected from damage and kept in good repair. Any equipment subject to in-service loading (a fall) will be immediately removed from service. All employees exposed to fall hazards will be trained in this procedure. Documentation of training will be kept by the safety coordinator. This procedure will be strictly enforced and any employee not in compliance will be subject to disciplinary action up to and including termination.

On August 9, 1994, OSHA published a final rule requiring construction employees to be protected with fall protection at heights six feet or higher. Other height guidelines are as follows:

Fall protection must be utilized at the following heights:

- Roofing
- Commercial - six feet or higher
- Residential -- 25 6 feet or higher
- General Industry – four feet or higher
- Grain Handling Facilities - six feet or higher where feasible
- Steel Erection - 15 feet or higher
- Scaffolds - 10 feet or higher.
- When width of scaffold is less than 45" - six feet or higher.
- Ladders
- Fixed ladders - 25 feet or higher
- Portable ladders - no fall protection required

These heights are presently the Federal guidelines issued. However, these can be subject to change at the Federal Governments' discretion. There may be exceptions to these guidelines. Refer to Federal Regulations 1926.502 and 1910.23 for further information.

Additional Resources

[OSHA – Fall Protection](#)