## Fall Protection

1. **Purpose**

The purpose of this procedure is to establish policies to prevent falls.

1. **Responsibilities**

The safety director is the qualified person responsible for preparing the fall protection plan for the company’s property and reviewing this program. The safety director, as the qualified person, will prepare all fall protection plans at specified worksites off of the company’s property.

The Supervisor shall:

* Assure that 100% fall protection is used whenever employees or contractors must work more than 6 feet above the main working level in an area that is not provided with guardrails.
* Periodically inspect and document fall prevention and fall protection equipment.
* In the event of a fall, every effort will be made to promptly rescue the worker. Workers will use the buddy system so that there is always another worker available for rescue.

1. **General**

* 100% fall protection is required when workers are higher than 6 feet above the main working level in an area without guardrails. This includes work near and around excavations.
* No fall protection equipment will be purchased or used that does not meet the standards set by ANZI, ASTM, and OSHA.
* Controlled access areas are not permitted, a safety harness or guardrails must be used.
* All accidents, serious incidents, and near misses will be investigated, implementing changes to the fall protection plan as necessary.

1. **Procedure**

Fall arresting equipment shall be used when personnel are working in exposed areas where they might be subject to the force of a fall. A fall arresting system includes:

* Full body harness. Full body harnesses shall be used instead of safety belts.
* Lanyard.
* Fall brake.
* Tie off point (anchor).

**Lanyards**

Lanyards must be specifically designed for service as a lanyard. The minimum strength for a conventional lanyard is 5000 lbs.; the minimum strength of a self retracting lanyard is 3000 lbs.

**Snap hooks**

Double locking snap hooks must be used to connect the harnesses, fall brakes, and tie off points using double locking snap hooks.

**Fall Brakes and Self-Retracting Lanyard**

Fall brakes or self-retracting lanyards must be used with fall arresting systems.

**Tie Off Points**

* Tie off points must be capable of supporting 5000 lbs.
* Tie off points must be positioned as directly above and behind the worker if possible.
* Tie off points must incorporate a D-ring so that the lanyard can be connected.
* Do not connect to tie off points by attaching lanyards back onto themselves. When using man lifts, check the manufacturer’s operators manual for correct tie off points. Workers must stay on the floor of the man lift. They are not to climb the side rails.

1. **Inspection and Maintenance**

The job supervisor shall periodically inspect all components of fall arresting systems. All components of a fall arresting system must be inspected by the user before use.

Potential problems include but are not limited to:

* Damaged webbing.
* Chemical contamination.
* Broken stitching.
* Corrosion.
* Missing components.
* Damaged or defective equipment must be removed from service and replaced.

1. **Training**

All workers who might be exposed to fall hazards must be trained in the use of fall protection, how to recognize fall hazards and how to minimize these hazards. Any time there is a change in the conditions, deficiencies in the use of fall protection, or change in the equipment, workers will be retrained in the safe use of the fall protection system. Training will be documented in the Safety Training Matrix. A certification will be completed for each worker trained; this will include the date trained and the signature of the trainer.

1. **Personal Floatation Protection**

* All personnel who are suspended over the water or working on the water, such as a barge tender or dock where the danger of falling into the water exists, shall wear a U. S. Coast Guard approved work vest.
* When in use, the work vest shall be properly donned and securely fastened.