

4.10 Fall Protection Program

Purpose

The intent of the Fall Protection Program is to minimize the possibility of injury or death from the improper use or lack of use of appropriate fall protection. The program refers to the requirements for fall protection as required by OSHA 29 CFR 1926.500-503 Subpart M.

Scope

This policy applies to individuals who are exposed to a fall hazard of 6 feet or more and must be protected from falling by the use of guardrail systems, safety net systems, or personal fall arrest systems.

Definitions

Competent Person- One who is capable of identifying existing and predictable hazards in the surroundings or working conditions which are unsanitary, hazardous, or dangerous to employees, and who has authorization to take prompt corrective measures to eliminate them. 29CFR 1926.32 (f).

Controlled Access Zone – an area in which certain work (e.g., overhand bricklaying) may take place without the use of guardrail systems, personal fall arrest systems, or safety net systems, and access to the zone is controlled.

Equivalent- alternative designs, materials, or methods to protect against a hazard which the employer can demonstrate will provide an equal or greater degree of safety for employees than the methods, materials or designs specified in the standard.

Free Fall- (FF) - The act of falling before a personal fall arrest system begins to apply force to arrest the fall.

Full-body harness (FBH)-A component of a personal fall arrest system with straps which fasten about the person in a manner to contain the torso and distribute the fall arrest forces over at least the upper thighs, pelvis, chest and shoulders with means for attaching it to other components or subsystems.

Horizontal Lifeline (HLL)-A component of a horizontal lifeline subsystem, which component consists of a flexible line with connectors or other coupling means at both ends for securing it horizontally between two anchorages or anchorage connectors.

Lanyard (L)-A flexible line of rope, wire rope, or strap which generally has a connector at each end for connecting the body harness to a deceleration device, lifeline, or anchorage.

Leading Edge - The edge of a floor, roof, or formwork for a floor or other walking/working surface (such as the deck) which changes location as additional floor, roof, decking, or formwork sections are placed, formed, or constructed. A leading edge is considered to be an “unprotected side and edge” during periods when it is not actively and continuously under construction.

Lifeline (LL) - A component consisting of a flexible line for connection to an anchorage at one end to hang vertically (vertical lifeline), or for connection to anchorages at both ends to stretch horizontally (horizontal lifeline), and which serves as a means for connecting other components of a personal fall arrest system to the anchorage.

Personal Fall Arrest System (PFAS) - A system used to arrest an employee in a fall from a working level. It consists of an anchorage, connectors, and a body harness and may include a lanyard, deceleration device, lifeline, or suitable combinations of these.

Qualified Person- A person who, by possession of a recognized degree, certificate, or professional standing, or who by extensive knowledge, training, and experience, has successfully demonstrated his/her ability to solve or resolve problems relating to the subject matter, the work, or the project.

Safety Monitoring System – A safety system in which a competent person is responsible for recognizing and warning employees of fall hazards.

Vertical Lifeline (VLL) - A component, element or constituent of a lifeline subsystem which consists of a vertically suspended flexible line with a connector at the upper end for fastening it to an overhead anchorage or anchorage connector and along which a fall arrester travels.

Warning Line System - A barrier erected on a roof to warn employees that they are approaching an unprotected roof side or edge, and which designates an area in which roofing work may take place without the use of guardrail, or safety net systems to protect employees in the area.

Responsibilities

The Competent Person has ultimate responsibility for the Fall Protection Program for all employees who utilize fall protection. The department head has the responsibility for ensuring the program is followed. The Department heads must:

1. Identify those work situations that have the potential to produce injuries due to falls.
2. Provide for appropriate training for employees who have the potential to fall more than six feet.
3. Provide adequate fall prevention & arrest equipment that meets or exceeds the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) standards and ensure its use in appropriate situations as defined in the OSHA standard.
4. Ensure that all personnel requiring the use of fall protection equipment employ the “buddy system” or have an observer to render assistance when and if required.
5. Employees who participate in the Fall Protection Program must:
 - a. Understand the procedures and safe use of fall protection systems.
 - b. Use appropriate fall protection systems when required.
 - c. Attend all required training.

The Port of Newport is responsible for equipping each facility with safety equipment necessary for safe fall protection.

Training

Training for employees who may be exposed to fall hazards must be done by a competent person. Training should take place at the time of hire, when changes in the workplace or equipment occur, or when the supervisor has reason to believe that an employee who has already been trained does not have the understanding and skill required to perform his duties. The main administration office will maintain the training records.

Fall Protection training will include:

1. The nature of the fall hazards in the work area
2. Correct procedures for erecting maintaining, disassembling and inspecting fall protection systems
3. Use and operation of guardrail systems, personal fall arrest systems, safety net systems, warning line systems, safety monitoring systems, controlled access zones, and other protection to be used
4. The role of employees in the Port of Newport's fall protection plan
5. The requirements of the fall protection standard