

Environmental Health and Safety

Fall Protection Summary



THE UNIVERSITY OF
CHICAGO

Purpose

For the last several years, falls have been the leading cause of workplace fatalities in the United States. Falls to the lower level account for 85%-90% of fall related deaths.

The Occupational Health and Safety Administration (OSHA) standard CFR 1926.501 and 1910.21 Subpart D contain the requirements for preventing injuries from elevated surfaces.

Applicability

- ◆ All flat, steep, and low sloped roof locations, when within 6 feet of the roof edge or during roof repair/maintenance/ inspection. All sloped roof locations during roof repair/maintenance/ inspection.
- ◆ All exterior and interior equipment platforms, catwalks, antennas/towers, etc.
- ◆ All exterior and interior fixed ladders above 24 feet.
- ◆ All mezzanine and balcony edges.
- ◆ All open excavations, tanks or pits.
- ◆ All tasks requiring use of the articulating, scissor platform, or single manlifts.
- ◆ All tasks requiring employees to lean outside the vertical rails of ladders or beyond guardrails (i.e., painting, stairwell light bulb replacement, etc.).
- ◆ Other walking/working surfaces.

General Requirements

Fall Protection	All University employees working six feet or more above a lower level shall be protected from fall hazards and falling objects.
Fall Protection Training	Required for all employees that are exposed to fall hazards. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Classroom ◆ Hands on training ◆ Arranged through Environmental Health and Safety
Types of Fall Protection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Guardrails ◆ Controlled Access ◆ Monitoring System ◆ Warning Line System ◆ Person Fall Arrest System
Inspection of Personal fall arrest system	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Inspect before each use ◆ Webbing on the lanyard and harness ◆ D-rings and eyelets ◆ Buckles ◆ Snaps, hooks, and locking mechanisms

When to Discard Personal Fall Arrest System

◆ Wears, tears, or frays in webbing on lanyards and body harness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Oil, dirt, grease, or other chemicals on webbing. ◆ Failed locking mechanisms. ◆ Buckles not securely closing. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Deformed or cracked D-rings or eyelets. ◆ Manufacturing label is missing from harness or lanyards.
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Employees must work with amplified awareness when working from heights!

Please contact Barry O'Quinn before the installation of any guardrail system on the roof of a campus building.