

Fall Protection Guidance

Purpose:

To ensure that all university employees and students performing maintenance activities at a height of four feet or more above a lower level are protected from fall hazards and falling objects and all university employees performing construction work at a height of six feet or more above a lower level are protected from fall hazards and falling objects.

The Occupational Health and Safety Administration (OSHA) standards in 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 repairs/maintenance/ inspections.
- 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 (e.g., painting, stairwell light bulb re-placement, etc.).
- Other walking/working surfaces (e.g., scaffolding, ladders, etc.).

General Requirements

Fall Protection:

All University employees working at heights shall be protected from fall hazards and falling objects. Fall protection requirements vary depending on the type of work being performed:

- **Construction Work:** Fall protection is required at heights of **6 feet or more**. This includes activities such as roofing, scaffolding, and working on elevated surfaces.
- **Non-Construction Work (General Industry):** Fall protection is required at heights of **4 feet or more**. This applies to workplaces like warehouses, factories, and offices.

Responsibilities for Supervisors, Employees, EH&S

Supervisors

- Ensure employees receive training in fall protection procedures and equipment use.
- Conduct regular inspections of work areas to identify and mitigate fall hazards.
- Provide employees with the necessary fall protection equipment and ensure it is in good condition.
- Develop and enforce a fall protection plan tailored to the specific work environment.
- Stop any unsafe work practices immediately.
- Immediately report any near miss, incident or accidents regarding fall to EH&S.

Employees

- Follow all fall protection policies, procedures and guidelines.
- Use fall protection equipment properly and as instructed.
- Inspect personal protective equipment (PPE) before each use and report any damage.
- Participate in fall protection training sessions.
- Report unsafe conditions or practices to supervisors.

Environmental Health & Safety (EH&S)

- Develop and maintain the organization's fall protection program.
- Conduct hazard assessments and recommend appropriate controls.
- Provide training and resources to supervisors and employees.
- Ensure compliance with OSHA and other applicable regulatory standards.
- Investigate fall-related incidents and ensure corrective actions are implemented.

Fall Protection Guidelines

Training:

Required for all employees that are exposed to fall hazards.

- Classroom or Online
- Hands on training
- May be arranged through Environmental Health and Safety

Types of Fall Protection Systems:

- Engineering Controls (e.g., parapets)
- Guardrails
- Controlled Access
- Person Fall Arrest System
- Warning Line System (construction)

Inspection of Personal Fall Arrest System:

- Inspect before each use
- Webbing on the lanyard and harness
- D-rings and eyelets
- Buckles
- Snaps, hooks, and locking mechanisms
- Report damaged PPE to supervisors and do not use.

When to Discard Personal Fall Arrest System:

- Wears, tears, or frays in webbing on lanyards and body harness
- Oil, dirt, grease, or other chemicals on webbing.
- Failed locking mechanisms.
- Buckles not securely closing.

EH&S expectations of Fall Protection by Contractors

- Compliance with Regulations: Contractors must adhere to all relevant safety standards, including OSHA's fall protection requirements and any site-specific policies.
- Fall Protection Plan: Contractors should develop and maintain a comprehensive fall protection safety plan tailored to the specific project, outlining potential hazards, mitigation strategies, and emergency procedures. Submit such to EH&S when requested at ehsafety@uta.edu.
- Proper Training: Contractors must ensure their employees are trained to recognize fall hazards, use of fall protection equipment, and following safety protocols.
- Provision of Equipment: Contractors are responsible for supplying and maintaining appropriate fall protection equipment (e.g., harnesses, lanyards, anchors).
- Hazard Assessment: Contractors should identify potential fall hazards in the work environment and implement controls to mitigate risks.
- Pre-Job Safety Meetings: Contractors should conduct toolbox talks or similar meetings to address fall protection measures before work begins.
- Inspections and Maintenance: Contractors must routinely inspect fall protection equipment and work areas to ensure safety.
- Incident Reporting: Any fall-related incidents or near-misses must be reported to EH&S immediately at ehsafety@uta.edu with detailed documentation.
- Collaboration with EH&S: Contractors should work closely with EH&S personnel to align their safety practices with organizational policies and resolve any safety concerns.
- Records and Documentation: Contractors should maintain records of training, equipment inspections, and incidents, and provide them to EH&S upon request.

UTA Environmental Health and Safety

The following OSHA regulations may apply to services performed and require the contractor to provide proper employee training, documentation of employee proficiency, and/or a written program:

- Fall Protection, 29 CFR 1926, Subpart M and CFR 29 1910.22 Subpart D Walking and Working Surfaces
- Scaffolds, 29 CFR 1926, Subpart L
- Personal Protective Equipment, 29 CFR 1910, Subpart I
- Cranes, Derricks, Hoists, Elevators & Conveyors, 29 CFR 1926, Subpart N

Contact EH&S office at 817-272-2185 or ehsafety@uta.edu for questions or assistance regarding Fall Protection or guidance when working at heights.