



Fall Protection Policy

Scope

This policy applies to all employees of the college community, including students working for the College, who are working in elevated areas, such as rooftops and platforms, when working from bucket trucks, lifts with articulating booms, or ladders.

Purpose

To protect faculty, staff, and students from the risks of injuries or fatality due to falls

Process

1. One of the following systems should be in place whenever an employee is exposed to a fall of greater than six feet without the use of a ladder (see # 6) or scaffolding (see #4). Fall protection is not required for employees climbing or working on portable ladders. Ladders must be used as required under 1910.25(d)(2).

a. Guardrail systems:

Guardrails are needed at the edge of work areas 6 feet or more in height when employees are not working from portable ladders, scaffolding or are not secured with personal fall arrest systems. Guardrails are required when working around excavations greater than six feet when the excavation is not readily seen because of plant growth or other visual barriers. Guardrail systems must meet the requirements of 1926.502.

b. Personal Fall Arrest Systems:

There are three main components to the personal fall arrest system. This includes the personal protective equipment the employee wears, the connecting devices and the anchorage point. Prior to tying off to perform the work, a means of rescue in the event of a fall must be immediately available. The system needs to meet the following criteria for each component:

Personal Protective Equipment

- **Full body harnesses are required.** The use of body belts is prohibited.
- The attachment point of the body harness is the center D-ring on the back.
- Employees must **always** tie off at or above the D ring of the harness except when using lanyards 3 feet or less in length.
- Harnesses or lanyards that have been subjected to an impact load shall be destroyed.
- Load testing shall not be performed on fall protection equipment.

Connecting devices

This device can be a rope or web lanyard, rope grab, or retractable lifeline.

- Lanyards may not be clipped back to itself (e.g. around an anchor point) unless specifically designed to do so.
- If vertical lifelines are used, each employee will be attached to a separate lifeline.
- Lifelines must be protected against being cut or abraded while in use or while in storage.

Anchorage

Secure anchor points are the most critical component when employees must use fall arrest equipment. Buildings may have existing structures (e.g., steel beams that may meet the criteria for a secure anchor point). Other work locations and assignments may require the installation of a temporary or permanent anchor. As a minimum, the following criteria must be considered for each type of anchor point:

- Structure must be sound and capable of withstanding a 5000 lb. static load/person attached.
- Structure/anchor must be easily accessible to avoid fall hazards during hook up.
- Chafing pads shall be used around sharp edged structures.
- Structures used as anchor points must be at the worker's shoulder level or higher to limit free fall to 6 feet or less and prevent contact with any lower level (exception – when self retracting lifelines and/or 3 foot lanyards are used)
- Choose structures for anchor points that will prevent swing fall hazards.



2. Fall protection must be provided for employees climbing or working on fixed ladders above 24 feet. When the length of climb is less than 24 feet under 1926.1053(a)(18) cages, wells, ladder safety devices, or self retracting lifelines must be provided where the top of the fixed ladder is greater than 24 feet above lower levels.
3. Work from Aerial Lifts and Self Powered Work Platforms: Body harnesses must be worn with a shock-absorbing lanyard (preferably not to exceed 3 feet in length) and must be worn when working from an elevated work platform (exception: scissor lifts and telescoping lifts that can move only vertically do not require the use of a harness and lanyard as long as the work platform is protected by a guardrail system). The point of attachment must be the lift's boom or work platform. Personnel will not attach lanyards to adjacent poles, structures or equipment while they are working from the aerial lift. Personnel will not move an aerial lift while the boom is in an elevated working position and the operator is inside of the lift platform.
4. Work from scaffolding shall comply with 1910.28: Scaffolding shall have complying guardrails installed on all open sides on scaffolding more than 10 feet in height. 1910.28(d)(7).
5. Inspection: The employee will inspect the entire personal fall arrest system prior to every use.
6. Ladders: Ladders shall be inspected before each use. Ladders that are defective should be discarded and replaced with class II or III fiberglass ladders. It is the College's intent that wooden and aluminum ladders shall be phased out – wooden ladders because of their weight and aluminum ladders because of their electrical conductivity – and should be replaced with class II or III fiberglass ladders.
7. Each employee who may be exposed to fall hazards will be trained to recognize the hazards and the procedures to follow to minimize the hazards. The training will include: fall hazards in the work area; correct procedures for erecting, maintaining, disassembling, and inspecting the fall protection systems used; use and operation of the fall protection systems used; role of employees in fall protection plans; what rescue procedures to follow in case of a fall; overview of the OSHA fall protection standards. Training will occur at the time of initial assignment and anytime there is a change in the equipment or work site.

Responsibilities

1. Managers
 - a. Ensure that only trained individuals are assigned work that requires the use of fall protection systems.
 - b. Ensure the appropriate equipment is purchased and available for employees.
 - c. Assure employee compliance with this policy.
2. Human Resources
 - a. Assist in the development, updating, and delivery of the training program.
 - b. Maintain all training records.

Evaluation

The Safety Committee shall be responsible for evaluating this policy annually.

Document History

Created: 9/2006

Revised: 2/2007; Audited: 3/2008, 2/2009; Revised: 2/2010; Audited: 2/2011, 2/2012



Roof Access Requirements (provided by Facilities Management)

Off-Campus House	Roof Type	Ladder Requirements to Access Roof & Gutter Line
831 College Ave.	Pitched Shingle	16'
Alumni House	Pitched Slate	16'
Brady Bunch	Pitched Shingle	24'
Cedar	Pitched Shingle	16'
Hackman	Pitched Shingle	16'
Health	Pitched Shingle	32'
International	Pitched Slate	24'
Maple	Hip Shingle	32'
Myer	Pitched Shingle	24'
President's	Pitched Hip Slate	32'
Rose Garden	Pitched Shingle	32'
Safety	Pitched Shingle	32'
Weaver	Pitched Shingle	16'
White House	Pitched Shingle	24'

Residence Hall	Roof Type	Ladder Requirements to Access Roof & Gutter Line
Brinser	Flat Rubber	Lift and 40' + hatch
Founders	Flat Rubber	Lift and 40' + hatch
Hackman Apts.	Pitched Shingle	Lift and 40'
Myer	Pitched Slate & Flat Rubber	Lift, window and 24'
Ober	Pitched Slate	Lift and 40'
Quads	Pitched Shingle	Lift and 32'
Royer	Pitched Shingle	Lift and 40'
Schlosser	Pitched Shingle	Lift and 32'

Building	Roof Type	Ladder Requirements to Access Roof & Gutter Line
Alpha	Pitched Shingle	Lift
BSC	Flat Rubber	Roof Hatch
Bucher Meeting House	Pitched Shingle	24' Ladder
Esbenshade	3 Levels of Rubber and Pitch	Roof Hatch
High Library	Flat Rubber & Pitched Shingle	Roof Hatch
Hoover	Flat Rubber	Lift to Hatch
Lefler (Admissions)	Pitched Shingle	32'
Lefler Chapel	Pitched Shingle and Flat Roof	Door to Flat, Lift to Pitched Shingle
Musser	Flat Rubber	Roof Hatch
Nicarry	Flat Rubber	Roof Hatch
Steinman	Flat Rubber and Pitched Slate	Lift + hatch to flat roof
Thompson	Build-Up Roof & Upper Level Hatch	24'
Wenger	Pitched Slate	Lift
Zug	Flat Rubber and Pitched Slate	Door to Flat