FACILITIES SERVICES FALL PROTECTION – TYPICAL REQUIREMENTS

Activity	Height Requiring Protection	Protection	Fall Protection Workplan Required
Walkway/platform above or next to dangerous equipment.	Always	Use guardrails and toe-boards	No
Floor openings	Always	Protected or covered	No
Open sided floor, platform or surface	4’	Guard with standard railing or equivalent on all open sides except where there is an entrance to a ramp, stairway or fixed ladder.	No
Stairs	>30 inches, or 4 or more risers	Stair rails or guardrails	No
Construction	10’	Fall restraint or fall arrest systems.	**Yes**
Aerial Personnel Lift (JLG, scissor lift, etc)	Always	Safety harness, lanyard devices fixed to attachment points provided and approved by equipment manufacturer.	No
Scaffolds	10’	Provide personal fall arrest system (Note: UW Program requires full body harness) or guardrails	No, if guardrails used. **Yes**, if fall arrest used.
Trenching/Excavation	4’	Guardrails where walkways are 4 feet or more above lower levels	No
Accessing equipment/mechanical rooms on roofs	4’	Parapet wall/guardrail 39” or higher Unguarded roof edge or walkway $\geq$ 4**’,** provide fall restraint or fall arrest system.	No **Yes**
Ladders (Fixed) Construction Standard	24’	Ladder safety devices, self retracting lifelines and rest platforms, a cage or well, multiple ladder section and landing platforms.	No
Ladders (Fixed) General Standard	>20’	Ladder safety devices or cage	No
Portable ladders	>25’	Where both hands are used for work task, a safety belt and lanyard must be secured to the ladder.	No
Electrical Workers	4’	Fall arrest equipment, work positioning equipment, travel restricting equipment when >4 feet above ground on poles, towers, etc.	No

April 2006, TM. Sources: “Comparison Chart for Fall Protection Requirements”, Washington State Department of Labor & Industries. “Fall Protection for the Construction Industry”, Oregon OSHA.

What is a fall hazard?

A fall hazard is anything in the workplace that could cause an unintended loss of balance, or bodily support, and result in a fall. Fall hazards cause accidents such as the following:

- A worker walking on a roof with an unprotected edge trips and falls over the edge.
- A worker falls when an unsecured ladder shifts.
- A worker carrying plywood on a flat roof steps into a skylight opening.

Fall hazards are foreseeable. You can identify them and eliminate or control them before they cause injuries.

How do I evaluate a fall hazard?

Identify hazardous work areas such as:

- Holes in walking/working surfaces workers could slip or fall into
- Elevated walking/working surfaces workers could fall off
- Skylights that workers could step into or fall through
- Wall openings such as those for windows and doors that workers could fall through
- Trenches and excavations that workers could fall into
- Walking/working surfaces above dangerous equipment
- Hoist areas, loading docks, etc where guardrails have been removed to receive materials.
- Leading edges (typically only new roofing) that change locations as additional sections are added

Identify tasks that could expose workers to falls:

- Working on roofs
- Working on scaffolds
- Working on fixed or portable ladders
- Loading/unloading materials at loading docks
- Working in attic spaces without flooring system or catwalk with guardrails
- Working in aerial lifts or on suspension platforms

What do I do if I identify a fall hazard?

With your lead, supervisor, manager, and EH&S as needed, work to:

Eliminate fall hazards if you can:

- Perform construction work on the ground prior to lifting it to an elevated position
- Use tool extensions to perform the work from the ground
- If frequently access is needed to an area, install stairs or a fixed ladder.

Identify fall hazards you can't eliminate and determine how you will prevent or control falls:

- Personal fall arrest systems can be used to control falls
- Covers, guardrails, handrails, perimeter safety cables, and personal fall restraint systems can be used to prevent falls
- Develop a Fall Protection Workplan http://www.ehs.washington.edu/forms/ohs/fallplan.pdf (see chart on front)

April 2006, TM. Sources: "Comparison Chart for Fall Protection Requirements", Washington State Department of Labor & Industries. "Fall Protection for the Construction Industry", Oregon OSHA.