# Fall Protection Program - Construction

OSHA currently regulates fall protection for construction under Part 1926, Subpart M. The standards for regulating fall protection systems and procedures are intended to prevent employees from falling off, onto or through working levels and to protect employees from falling objects. Fall protection requirements under the OSHA Construction regulations require considerable planning and preparation. [Note: These regulations do not address the issue of whether employers should compile a written fall protection plan, except to provide for the use of a written plan as justification for less conventional fall protection measures during leading edge work, precast concrete erection work, or residential construction.]

Written fall protection procedures establish guidelines to be followed whenever an employee works above dangerous equipment on ramps or runways, or at heights with fall protection at the job site. The regulations:

* Are designed to provide a safe working environment.
* Govern use of fall protection procedures and equipment.

Written procedures for fall protection establish uniform requirements for fall protection training, operation and practices. The effectiveness of the written fall protection procedures depends on the active support and involvement of all employees who perform the jobs requiring it. This plan is intended to document procedures that ensure all work requiring fall protection is carried out safely.

**Purpose**

Company Name is dedicated to the protection of its employees from on-the-job injuries. All employees of have the responsibility to work safely on the job. The purpose of this plan is to:

* Supplement our standard safety policy by providing safety standards specifically designed to cover fall protection on this job.
* Ensure that each employee is trained and made aware of the safety provisions that are to be implemented by this plan prior to the start of the work.

This program informs interested persons, including employees, that is complying with OSHA's Fall Protection requirements (29 CFR 1926.500 to.503).

This program applies to all employees who might be exposed to fall hazards, except when designated employees are inspecting, investigating or assessing workplace conditions before the actual start of construction work or after all construction work has been completed.

All fall protection systems selected for each application will be installed before an employee is allowed to go to work in an area that necessitates the protection. Employee Name, is the program coordinator/manager and is responsible for its implementation. Copies of the written program may be obtained from Employee Name. Certain employees are authorized to inspect, investigate or assess workplace conditions before construction work begins or after all construction work has been completed. These employees are exempt from the fall protection rule during the performance of these duties. They are:

Exempt Employees

These authorized employees determine if all walking / working surfaces on which our employees work have the strength and structural integrity to support the employees. Our employees will not be allowed to work on these surfaces until they have the requisite strength and structural integrity.

All employees, or their designated representatives, can obtain further information about this written program, and/or the fall protection standard from Employee Name at Location or Department.

Our Duty to Provide Fall Protection

To prevent falls has a duty to anticipate the need to work at heights and to plan our work activities accordingly. Careful planning and preparation lay the necessary groundwork for an accident-free job site.

**Work Site Assessment and Fall Protection System Selection**

This written plan is for Job or Location. There are situations at this work site that will require fall protection.

This fall protection plan is intended to anticipate the particular fall hazards to which our employees may be exposed. Specifically, we:

* Inspect the area to determine what hazards exist or may arise during the work.
* Identify the hazards and select the appropriate measures and equipment.
* Give specific and appropriate instructions to workers to prevent exposure to unsafe conditions.
* Ensure employees follow procedures given and understand training provided.
* Apprise ourselves of the steps our specialty subcontractors have taken to meet their fall protection requirements.

Providing fall protection requires an assessment of each fall situation at a given job site. Our criteria for selecting a given fall protection system follow those established at 29 CFR 1926.502, fall protection systems criteria and practices. Each employee exposed to these situations must be trained as outlined later in this plan.

**Unprotected Sides and Edges**

Our employees must be protected when they are exposed to falls from unprotected sides and edges of walking / working surfaces (horizontal and vertical surfaces) that are 6 feet or more above lower levels.

We know that OSHA has determined that there is no "safe" distance from an unprotected side or edge that would render fall protection unnecessary.

We have chosen the following fall protection for unprotected sides and edges at this work site:

List Protections Here

We have chosen the following systems for each location where unprotected sides and edges exist:

List Protections Here

We maintain the system(s) chosen until all work has been completed or until the permanent elements of the structure that will eliminate the exposure to falling hazards are in place.

**Leading Edge Work**

This construction site requires leading edge work. Leading edges are defined as the edge of a floor, roof or formwork that changes location as additional floor, roof or formwork sections are placed, formed or constructed. If work stops on a leading edge it will be considered to be an "unprotected side or edge" and will be covered by the section of this plan on unprotected sides and edges.

We presume that it is feasible and will not create a greater hazard to implement at least one of the conventional fall protection systems for our leading edge work.

We have chosen the following systems for each location where leading edges exist:

List Protections Here

Employees who are not constructing the leading edge, but who are on walking / working surfaces where leading edges are under construction, are also protected from a fall by (enter your answer).

**Hoist Areas**

In all situations where equipment and material hoisting operations take place, we protect our employees from fall hazards. When we are involved in hoisting operations we will use the following fall protection systems at these specific locations:

List Protections Here

When operations require the materials to be lifted by crane to a landing zone (and do not require an employee to lean through the access opening or out over the edge to receive or guide materials), we can select either personal fall arrest equipment or a guardrail system.

When guardrails (or chains or gates) are removed to facilitate hoisting operations, and one of our employees must lean through the access opening or out over the edge to receive or guide materials they will be protected by a personal fall arrest system.

**Holes**

 protects employees from:

* Tripping in or stepping into or through holes (including skylights).
* Objects falling through holes (including skylights).

We use the following fall protection system to protect our employees working on walking / working surfaces with holes where they can fall 6 feet or more to a lower surface:

List Protections Here

At this work site employees can trip or step into or through a hole (including skylights) or an object could fall through a hole and strike a worker. In these instances we use covers to prevent accidents.

We understand that OSHA does not intend that a guardrail be erected around holes while employees are working at the hole, passing materials, and so on. Therefore, if the cover is removed while work is in progress, guardrails are not required because they would interfere with the performance of work.

When the work has been completed, we will be required to either replace the cover or erect guardrails around the hole.

**Formwork and Reinforcing Steel**

This job site requires formwork or reinforcing steel work 6 feet or more above lower levels. We are involved in work where different systems fit different applications. Therefore, we have chosen the following fall protection systems at each listed location to protect our employees:

List Protections Here

**Ramps, Runways and Other Walkways**

We equip all ramps, runways and other walkways with guardrails when employees are subject to falling 6 feet or more to lower levels.

**Excavations**

At this job site we may have excavation edges that will not be readily seen (i.e., concealed from view by plant growth, etc.). When it is necessary, and when the excavation is 6 feet or more deep we protect these excavations by:

List Protections Here

In addition, walls, pits, shafts and similar excavations 6 feet or more deep will be guarded to prevent employees from falling into them by:

List Protections Here

**Dangerous Equipment**

 is committed to protecting our employees from falling onto dangerous equipment.

When this equipment is less than 6 feet below an employee, and because of form or function is dangerous, the employee is protected by:

List Protections Here

When this equipment is more than 6 feet below an employee, but because of form or function is dangerous, the employee is protected by:

List Protections Here

**Overhand Bricklaying and Related Work**

Each employee performing overhand bricklaying and related work 6 feet or more above lower levels must be protected from falls. Related work means mason tending as well as electrical work that must be incorporated into the brick wall during the bricklaying process.

When a job requires overhand bricklaying and related work, our employees are protected by:

List Protections Here

When workers must reach more than 10 inches below the level of their working surface, a controlled access zone may not be used as the fall protection measure.

We realize that there cannot be any exposure to our workers to fall hazards, such as holes or hoist areas, within a controlled access zone. If there is, the workers must be protected by a fall protection means addressing the specific hazard.

**Roofing Work on Low-Slope Roofs**

Each of our employees engaged in roofing activities on low-slope roofs (4-in-12 or less, vertical to horizontal pitch) with unprotected sides and edges 6 feet or more above lower levels will be protected from falling by:

List Protections Here

We follow the guidelines in Appendix A of Subpart M to determine how to correctly measure a roof that is not a rectangle.

**Steep Roofs**

We will protect our workers on roofs with slopes greater than 4-in-12 vertical to horizontal pitch (steep roofs) from falling when the roof has unprotected sides or edges more than 6 feet above lower levels by the use of:

List Protections Here

**Precast Concrete Erection**

Our company does precast concrete erection work.

We presume that it is feasible and will not create a greater hazard to implement at least one of the conventional fall protection systems for our precast concrete erection work. When our employees are erecting precast concrete members 6 feet or more above a lower level they must be protected from falling by:

List Protections Here

**Residential Construction**

This company is engaged in residential construction work.

We presume that it is feasible and will not create a greater hazard to implement at least one of the conventional fall protection systems for our residential construction work.

When our employees are working in residential construction 6 feet or more above a lower level they must be protected from falling by:

List Protections Here

**Wall Openings**

Employees who are exposed to the hazard of falling out or through wall openings (including those with chutes attached) where the outside bottom edge of the wall opening is 6 feet or more above lower levels and the inside bottom edge of the wall opening is less than 39 inches above the walking / working surface must be protected from falling.

We protect our employees from falls out or through wall openings by the following methods:

List Protections Here

**Walking / Working Surfaces Not Otherwise Addressed**

We realize there will be situations that are not covered by our written safety plan, for which we have the duty to provide fall protection. All employees exposed to falls of 6 feet or more to lower levels must be protected by a guardrail system, safety net system or personal fall arrest system, except where specified otherwise in Part 1926.

We have audited our work site and have found several fall protection hazards that are not covered elsewhere in this plan. We have taken the following measures to address these hazards:

List Protections Here

**Protection From Falling Objects**

When employees are exposed to falling objects, we ensure they wear hard hats and also implement one of the following measures:

* Erect toeboards, screens or guardrail systems to prevent objects from falling from higher levels.
* Erect a canopy structure and keep potential fall objects far enough from the edge of the higher level so that those objects would not go over the edge if they were accidentally moved.
* Barricade the area to which objects could fall, prohibit employees from entering the barricaded area, and keep objects that may fall far enough away from the edge of a higher level so that those objects would not go over the edge if they were accidentally moved.
* Cover or guard holes 6 feet or more above a lower level.

**General Work Site Policy**

* If any one of the conditions described in the Workplace Assessment is not met for the area or piece of equipment posing a potential fall hazard, then do not perform that work until the condition is met. If you cannot remedy the condition immediately, notify a supervisor of the problem and utilize a different piece of equipment or work in a different area, according to the situation.
* If the situation calls for use of fall protection devices such as harnesses or lanyards because the fall hazard cannot be reduced to a safe level, then the employee must put on and secure such protective equipment before beginning the work and use it as intended throughout the duration of the work.
* Only employees trained in such work are expected to perform it.
* All places of employment, job sites shall be kept clean and orderly and in a sanitary condition.
* All walking / working surfaces must be kept in a clean and, so far as possible, dry condition. Where wet processes are used, drainage shall be maintained, and false floors, platforms, mats or other dry standing places should be provided where practicable.

List Additional Policies

**Training Program**

Under no circumstances shall employees work in areas where they might be exposed to fall hazards, do work requiring fall protection devices, or use fall protection devices until they have successfully completed this company's fall protection training program.

The training program includes classroom instruction and operational training on recognition and avoidance of unsafe conditions and the regulations applicable to their work environment for each specific fall hazard the employee may encounter. The training program is given by (enter your answer), a "competent person" qualified in each aspect of the program, and must cover the following areas:

* The nature of fall hazards in the work area.
* Selection and use of personal fall arrest systems, including application limits, proper anchoring and tie-off techniques, estimation of free-fall distance (including determination of deceleration distance and total fall distance to prevent striking a lower level), methods of use, and inspection and storage of the system.
* The correct procedures for erecting, maintaining, disassembling and inspecting the fall protection systems to be used.
* The 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.
* The role of each employee in the safety monitoring system when this is used.
* The limitations on the use of mechanical equipment during the performance of roofing work on low-sloped roofs.
* The correct procedures for the handling and storage of equipment and materials and the erection of overhead protection.
* The role of employees in fall protection plans.
* The standards contained in Subpart M of the construction regulations.

The Job Title will identify all current and new employees who require training and schedule the classroom instruction for those employees. Training on the above components will occur both in the classroom and on the job site, as appropriate. Classroom training will cover written policy / procedures on fall protection and include a training video on the subject. Job site instruction will include demonstration of and practice in wearing fall protection equipment and any instruction necessary for a specific job.

The Job Title has overall responsibility for the safety of employees and will verify compliance with 1926.503(a), training program, for each employee required to be trained.

The (enter your answer) has the responsibility of determining when an employee who has already been trained, does not have the understanding and skill required by the training program (1926.503(a)).

A written certificate of training is required that must include:

* The name or other identity of the employee trained.
* The date(s) of training.
* The signature of the competent person who conducted the training or the signature of the employer.

Retraining is required when an employee cannot demonstrate the ability to recognize the hazards of falling and the procedures to be followed to minimize fall hazards.

**Enforcement**

Constant awareness of and respect for fall hazards, and compliance with all safety rules are considered conditions of employment. The job site superintendent, as well as individuals in the Safety Department, reserve the right to issue disciplinary warnings to employees, up to and including termination, for failure to follow the guidelines of this program.

**Incident Investigation**

All accidents that result in injury to workers, regardless of their nature, are investigated and reported. It is an integral part of any safety program that documentation take place as soon as possible so that the cause and means of prevention can be identified to prevent a reoccurrence.

In the event that an employee falls or there is some other related, serious incident (e.g., a near miss) occurs, this plan will be reviewed to determine if additional practices, procedures or training need to be implemented to prevent similar types of falls or incidents from occurring.

**Changes to Plan**

Any changes to the plan will be approved by the safety manager. This plan is reviewed by a qualified person as the job progresses to determine if additional practices, procedures or training needs to be implemented by the competent person to improve or provide additional fall protection. Workers are notified and trained, if necessary, in the new procedures. A copy of this plan and all approved changes is maintained at the job site.

**Appendix**

We have attached to this plan any lists, samples or procedures believes help ensure better understanding of our written program.

**Acknowledgement Form**

I have received and reviewed the Company Name Fall Protection Program - Construction, and I agree to comply with it as it pertains to my position.

Employee name

Date

Manager Name