1. PURPOSE

The Fall Protection Program is to establish uniform requirements to make sure that fall hazards in the workplace are evaluated, that the hazards are communicated to affected employees, and that protective measures are established.

The hazards of potential falls at heights of 6 feet or greater are to be managed by this program. The program includes a systematic approach that must be used to protect and prevent people from falling. Specific recommendations and guidelines within this program must be followed by all employees.

Contractors must provide a copy of their written fall protection program including their policies and procedures and qualified individuals. This program must be reviewed by and approved by Environmental Health & Safety before work above 6' can begin. Supervisors or department heads who have enlisted the assistance of outside contractors will be responsible for obtaining this information and routing it to Environmental Health & Safety. Work cannot begin until the information has been reviewed by Environmental Health & Safety and has been accepted as an adequate program.

2. REFERENCE

29 CFR 1926.500

3. DEFINITIONS

Anchorage means a secure point of attachment for lifelines, lanyards or deceleration devices.

Body belt (safety belt) means a strap with means both for securing it about the waist and for attaching it to a lanyard, lifeline, or deceleration device.

Body harness means straps which may be secured about the employee in a manner that will distribute the fall arrest forces over at least the thighs, pelvis, waist, chest and shoulders with means for attaching it to other components of a personal fall arrest system.

Buckle means any device for holding the body belt or body harness closed around the employee's body.
Connector means a device which is used to couple (connect) parts of the personal fall arrest system and positioning device systems together. It may be an independent component of the system, such as a carabiner, or it may be an integral component of part of the system (such as a buckle or Deceleration device means any mechanism, such as a rope grab, rip-stitch lanyard, specially-woven lanyard, tearing or deforming lanyards, automatic self-retracting lifelines/lanyards, etc., which serves to dissipate a substantial amount of energy during a fall arrest, or otherwise limit the energy imposed on an employee during fall arrest.

Lanyard means a flexible line of rope, wire rope, or strap which generally has a connector at each end for connecting the body belt or body harness to a deceleration device, lifeline, or anchorage.

Lifeline means a component consisting of a flexible line for connection to an anchorage at one end to hang vertically (vertical lifeline), or for connection to anchorages at both ends to stretch horizontally (horizontal lifeline), and which serves as a means for connecting other components of a personal fall arrest system to the anchorage.

Personal fall arrest system means a system used to arrest an employee in a fall from a working level. It consists of an anchorage, connectors, a body belt or body harness and may include a lanyard, deceleration device, lifeline, or suitable combinations of these. As of January 1, 1998, the use of a body belt for fall arrest is prohibited.

Positioning device system means a body belt or body harness system rigged to allow an employee to be supported on an elevated vertical surface, such as a wall, and work with both hands free while leaning.

Safety-monitoring system means a safety system in which a competent person is responsible for recognizing and warning employees of fall hazards.

Self-retracting lifeline/lanyard means a deceleration device containing a drum-wound line which can be slowly extracted from, or retracted onto, the drum under slight tension during normal employee movement, and which, after onset of a fall, automatically locks the drum and arrests the fall.

Snaphook means a connector comprised of a hook-shaped member with a normally closed keeper, or similar arrangement, which may be opened to permit the hook to receive an object and, when released, automatically closes to retain the object. Snaphooks are generally one of two types:

(1) The locking type with a self-closing, self-locking keeper which remains closed and locked until unlocked and pressed open for connection or disconnection; or

(2) The non-locking type with a self-closing keeper which remains closed until pressed open for connection or disconnection. As of January 1, 1998, the use of a non-locking snaphook as part of personal fall arrest systems and positioning device systems is prohibited.
Toeboard means a low protective barrier that will prevent the fall of materials and equipment to lower levels and provide protection from falls for personnel.

4. RESPONSIBILITIES

Environmental Health and Safety

EHS is responsible for the administration of this program. All employees are responsible for safety at all times and EHS has authorization to halt any operation where there is a risk of personal injury associated with fall protection.

EHS will assist and supervise with the selection of proper Fall Protection equipment.

EHS will coordinate with Teams and Facilities and Campus Services (F&CS) for training.

The program will be reviewed and evaluated on an annual basis, if there is an accident or close-call related to fall protection, or any time the program contents do not appear to be adequate.

Supervisors

Appropriate fall protection devices will be provided for potential fall hazards. Selection of this equipment will be based on the fall protection evaluation. Evaluations will be conducted by the supervisor in charge of the project.

Proper training on the use of the fall equipment must be provided prior to use. Supervisors of the work site are responsible for this training.

Supervisors will employ a safety monitoring system when fall protection is required.

Employees

Employees must attend training, know when fall protection is necessary, address any unsafe findings, and use fall protection systems as designated by this program.

Contractors

Contractors must provide a copy of their written fall protection program including their policies and procedures and qualified individuals. Supervisors or department heads who have enlisted the assistance of outside contractors will be responsible for obtaining a fall protection plan from the contractor and routing it to EHS, as well as, maintaining in the work file. Work cannot begin until the information has been received and reviewed by project manager of the work being contracted.

5. PROCEDURES
Pre-Checks
Authorized and qualified individuals must review a work site prior to work beginning to recommend and enforce the use of appropriate fall protection measures and equipment. This will include interacting with EHS anytime there is uncertainty about load ratings on any anchorage points or any uncertainties about adequate protection and equipment.

Employees at risk, including contracted employees, will be responsible for having a procedure in place to rescue fallen employees including the specific role each individual on site will play.

Precautions must be taken against falling objects. Work surfaces are to be kept clear of material and debris and toeboards should be used to prevent objects from being inadvertently kicked to a lower level.

Equipment Selection

Fall Protection devices must meet the following:

1. Equipment must be capable of withstanding the environment to which it is exposed for the maximum period of time that exposure is expected.
2. Anchor points will not deteriorate when located in corrosive environments.
3. Equipment must be capable of withstanding the ultimate load of 5,000 lbs. for the maximum period of time that exposure is expected.

Fall Protection Systems

The body harness and all of its components must be inspected before each use. This system consists of a full-body harness, lanyard, energy shock absorber, and self-locking snap hook. Before using the full-body harness system, the supervisor and the user must address the following:

1. Recognition of fall hazards and use fall arrest systems.
2. Review appropriate anchorage points and attachment techniques.
3. Free fall distance
4. Elimination of swing fall hazards.
5. Potential physical or mechanical stress to equipment.
6. High Angle Rescue

Retractable Lifelines

Retractable lifelines should be used by only one person at a time.

Retractable lifelines will be used when working in areas such as rooftops and scaffolds, in tanks, towers, and vessels or in manholes. Also, retractable lifelines should be considered when climbing such equipment as vertical fixed ladders.

Standard harnesses are used for general purpose work. Standard harnesses are suitable for continuous fall protection while climbing, riding, or working on elevated personnel platforms.
They are suitable for positioning, fall arrest, and the rescue and evacuation of people who are working at elevated heights.

**Inspection and Maintenance**

Personal fall arrest systems shall be inspected prior to each use for wear, damage and other deterioration, and defective components shall be removed from service.

### 6. TRAINING

Training must include the following:

1. How to recognize and minimize fall hazards;
2. The nature of the fall hazards in a given work area;
3. Procedures for erecting, maintaining and disassembling, as well as inspection of the fall protection systems used;
4. Use, operation, and limitations of fall protection systems;
5. The user’s role in fall protection precautions.

### 7. REVISIONS

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>REVISION</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Revision – made minor changes to phrasing.</td>
<td>11/28/2016</td>
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<tr>
<td>Revision – change in signing authority to Associate Vice President, Strategy and Operations.</td>
<td>1/22/2015</td>
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