

Fall Prevention & Protection

Rev. 1/28/14

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Purpose: To prevent falls when working at a height of 6' or more into floor or wall openings including roof and bridge work. This guideline also includes trips, slips, and falls at the workplace.

Scope: All Wayne County employees performing work or inspections at elevated heights.

I. General Fall Prevention Guidelines

- A. Housekeeping
- B. Non-slip Footwear
- C. Proper Lighting
- D. Slip Resistant Surfaces

II. Floors and Walking Surfaces

- A. All floors shall be kept clean and orderly and in a sanitary condition.
- B. Keep walkways and aisles clear
- C. Label and block areas being cleaned or repaired.
- D. Clean-up spills, leaks, snow melt and rainwater immediately.
- E. Walk slowly with a sliding motion on slippery and uneven surfaces.
- F. Cords, cables, and wires shall be properly located as to not cause a tripping hazard.

III. Roof

A. Fall protection equipment must be worn when:

1. The roof pitch exceeds 4/12 (four in twelve)
2. The roof surface is covered with snow, ice, frost or leaves.
3. When the roof may not support the weight of the person performing the inspection.
4. When the work or inspection being performed is 6' from the roof edge.
5. When the employee must work near skylights that would not support their weight.

IV. Manholes / Sewer

- A. Hole must be covered or barricaded when the employee leaves the area.
- B. If the hole is open at night, provide adequate lighting.
- C. If the public has access to any hole, trench, excavation regardless of depth, protect the opening completely. Special care should be taken on public right-of-way and on public property.
- D. Ensure tools and equipment do not fall into holes.
- E. Supervisors shall ensure all permanent fall protection, such as guardrails, are properly installed and in good condition.

V. Ladders

- A. Inspect ladders before each use.
 1. Check for splinters and sharp edges.
 2. Check support braces, bolts, screws, and rivets are in place and in good condition.
- B. Tie ladders off properly.

- C. Set base of ladder out from its support 1' for every 4' of working ladder height.
- D. Set ladders on a firm and level surface.
- E. Extend the ladder at least 3' above the top support.
- F. Face ladder when climbing up or down.
- G. Use both hands to climb.
- H. Always keep one hand on the ladder when working.
- I. Keep metal ladders clear from electrical wires.
- J. Do not place ladders in front of doorways unless locked, blocked, tagged, or barricaded.
- K. Rungs shall be kept free of grease and oil.
- L. Ladders shall not be placed on boxes, barrels, or other unstable bases to obtain additional height.
- M. Short ladders will not be spliced together to form additional length.
- N. Follow all manufacturing guidelines.

VI. Floor and Wall Openings

- A. Permanent floor openings created by pits, manholes, stairs, and ladders shall be guarded.
- B. Pit and trap door openings where traffic is required to pass over the openings shall be guarded with a properly designed floor opening cover.

VII. Scaffolds

- A. Scaffolds and associated equipment will be maintained in a safe condition.
- B. Do not alter or move scaffold horizontally while in use or occupied.
- C. Do not load scaffolds in excess of their intended work load.
- D. Do not allow tools, materials, or debris to accumulate on scaffolds.

- E. Metal scaffolds shall not be used near exposed wiring and electrical circuits.

VIII. Stairs

- A. Check condition of stairs and repair missing or broken steps and handrails immediately.
- B. Always use handrails when climbing and descending stairs.
- C. Keep stairs clean and dry.
- D. Clean spills immediately.

IX. Fall Protection Equipment

Fall protection is the use of engineered personal protective devices that will arrest a free fall. Examples include lanyards, tripods, lifelines, harnesses, and nets. Fall protection has 3 components: anchor point, body support, and connector.

Before the application of fall protection equipment, contact the Safety / Loss Control Manager. All requirements of Personal Fall Arrest Systems are found in 29 CFR 1910.66 App. C.