



Policy

Saskatoon & Area - Occupational Health & Safety

Number: 53-028

Title: Physical Hazard: Working at Heights

Saskatchewan Employment Act:

OHS Regulation: 7-15 to 7-21, 9-2, 9-11(1)

Date: January 1, 2017

Date Revised/Reaffirmed: December 30, 2021

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Purpose

To ensure that all workers are supplied with, trained and properly use the appropriate PPE to safely work at heights

Definition

- Working at heights refers to any height over 3m or where a worker can be injured falling from less than 3m

Roles and Responsibilities

Employer must ensure:

- A written fall protection plan is developed and followed
- The plan includes the descriptions in OHS Regulation 9-3(2)
- A copy of the fall protection plan is readily available to workers before work begins
- A control zone is used if a worker could fall from a flat surface
- Control zone is not less than 2 meters wide from the unguarded edge
- That all anchor points or anchor plates used as part of the personal fall arrest or travel restraint system points meet the requirements of OHS Regulation 9-5
- A guardrail or similar barrier is installed at a permanent work area if a worker could fall a vertical distance greater than 1.2m but less than 3m

Manager/Supervisor must ensure:

- Workers are held accountable for meeting their responsibilities, applicable legislation and/or standards
- Suitable fall protection that made of wire rope or synthetic material is provided of proper strength, abrasion resistance, extensibility and chemical stability
- The lifeline is regularly inspected for imperfections, and is maintained according to the manufacturers recommendations
- Safe work procedures are written and followed
- They correct all defects and unsafe conditions that are reported by workers or observed by themselves
- That workers are trained in and complete inspections of their personal fall arrest systems
- That the workers have been trained in the fall protection plan and fall protection system before work begins

Worker must ensure:

- They are trained in and follow the safe work procedures
- They are trained in and use any PPE required (selection, use, care and handling)
- They report all incidents or near misses involving working at heights to their supervisor and the Safety Alert System/Incident Report Line
- They inspect all parts of their personal fall arrest system before use
- They report all defects and unsafe conditions to their manager

Orientation & Training

- Fall Protection training course
- Training in the inspection care and use of all parts of the personal fall arrest system

Materials

- Proper fall protection system

Non-Compliance/Breach:

Non-compliance with this policy will result in a review of the incident. A review for non-compliance may result in disciplinary action, up to and including termination of employment or privileges; fines and /or prosecution of individuals under the Saskatchewan Employment Act and OHS Regulations.

References

- This policy is used in conjunction with Policy 53-014 Fall Protection

Review Dates:

January 1, 2017

June 6, 2018

December 30, 2021