

# Information Bulletin

NUMBER 43

## Fall Protection Program Elements

Managing exposures and hazards that lead to falls from heights requires a comprehensive approach that includes both a written program and position-specific training requirements. The following elements are needed:

### Management Fall Protection Policies

Develop a formal policy statement that provides goals and guidance for the Fall Protection Program.

### Position-Specific Assigned Duties

- Program Administrator; has the knowledge, experience, training and authority to direct, manage and evaluate the Fall Protection Program.
- Qualified Person; knowledgeable of applicable fall protection regulations, standards, equipment and systems.
- Competent Person; responsible for immediate supervision, implementation and monitoring of the managed Fall Protection Program.
- Authorized Person; has a working understanding of and follows the policies and procedures outlined in the Fall Protection Program.
- Competent Rescuer; has a working knowledge through experience and training of current fall protection and planned rescue regulations and standards.
- Authorized Rescuer; has a working knowledge of the selection, use, storage and care of rescue equipment.

### Fall Protection Procedures

Specifies the fall protection equipment and systems used to protect authorized persons from each fall hazard and document proper operation of the equipment and systems including installation, inspection, and use and dismantling. Procedures need to include a Fall Hazard Survey Report that addresses one or more methods to eliminate or control each fall hazard.

### Eliminate and Control Fall Hazards

The following hierarchy is used to choose methods to eliminate or control fall hazards:

- Elimination or substitution
- Passive fall protection such as isolation or separating the hazard from employees
- Fall Restraint; securing the employee to restrict access to the fall hazard
- Fall Arrest-system designed to stop an authorized person after the fall
- Administrative Controls; work practices or procedures that signal or warn an authorized person of a fall hazard

### Rescue Procedures

Written procedures prepared and maintained by the competent person for all cases where authorized persons work at heights. These must contain provisions for the prompt rescue and self-rescue of any authorized person who falls.

### Training Requirements

Each individual assigned responsibility under the program has to receive training specific to their position as outlined below.

### Program Administrator

- develop and maintain a managed fall protection program
- fall hazard surveys
- selection and appointment of safety committee personnel
- fall protection system selection
- selection and appointment of competent and qualified personnel
- writing fall protection procedures
- development of engineering system standards

- development of written fall protection and rescue procedures and training programs
- accident and near miss investigations

### **Qualified Person**

- fall hazard elimination and control methods
- applicable fall protection standards
- inspection of equipment components and systems
- preparing fall hazard surveys
- selecting fall protection systems
- developing engineering system standards
- determining system clearance requirements
- designing and selecting anchorages (anchor points)
- determining when fall protection systems are unfeasible
- designing new and evaluating existing horizontal lifelines
- assessing system component compatibility
- fall protection system assessments
- analyzing anchorages
- developing written fall protection and rescue procedures

### **Competent Person**

- fall hazard elimination and control methods
- applicable fall protection regulations
- fall hazard surveys and fall protection procedures
- responsibilities of designated personnel
- detailed inspection of equipment components and systems
- fall protection system assessments and determining if a system is unsafe
- fall protection rescue procedures
- selection and use of non-certified anchorages

### **Authorized Person**

- fall hazard recognition
- fall hazard elimination and control methods
- applicable fall protection standards
- responsibilities of designated personnel
- how to use written fall protection procedures
- inspection of equipment components and systems before use
- fall protection rescue procedures

### **Competent Rescuer**

- fall hazard elimination and control methods
- applicable fall protection and rescue regulations
- assessment of fall hazards to determine rescue methods
- responsibilities of designated personnel
- detailed inspections and recording of rescue equipment components and systems
- rescue system assessments and determining when a system is unsafe
- development of written fall protection rescue procedures
- selection and use of non-certified anchorages

### **Authorized Rescuer**

- fall hazard recognition
- fall hazard elimination and control methods
- applicable fall protection and rescue regulations
- responsibilities of designated personnel
- how to use written fall protection and rescue procedures
- inspection of equipment components and systems before use

Reference ANSI/ASSE Z359.2-2007  
ANSI/ASSE Z490.1-2001

*This bulletin is intended only as a reminder and is offered solely as a guide to assist management in its responsibility of providing a safer working environment. This bulletin is not intended to cover all possible hazardous conditions or unsafe acts that may exist. Other unsafe acts or hazardous conditions should also be noted and corrective action taken.*