



## **Fall Protection Program**

**February 2025**

Prepared by: Deon Day  
Occupational Safety Program Coordinator

Reviewed by: Julie Moos  
Occupational Safety Program Manager

Approved by: Brent Webber  
Assistant Director of Environmental Health and Safety

Summary of Changes

Date: 2/14/2025

Section

Change

All throughout

Rewording, grammatical, and paper structure changes.

**A. SCOPE AND APPLICATION**

This document establishes the minimum requirements for fall protection at the University of Nevada Las Vegas (UNLV) for employees:

- (1) Whose walking/working surfaces are at elevations of 4 feet (General industry) or 6 feet (Construction industry) or more above the next lower surface (adjacent floor or ground level).
- (2) Who work near or above any dangerous operations or equipment regardless of height.

This program is established in accordance with OSHA standards 29 CFR 1910 Subpart D (General industry standards) and 29 CFR 1926 Subpart M (Construction standards).

**B. COMPLIANCE**

All UNLV employees, designated volunteers, students, and contractors are required to comply with the program elements.

**C. DEFINITIONS**

- (1) **Competent Person** – A person capable of identifying existing and predictable hazards in the surroundings or working conditions which are hazardous to employees, and who has the authority to take prompt corrective measures to eliminate them.
- (2) **Qualified Person** – A person, who by possession of a recognized degree, certificate, or professional standing, or who by extensive knowledge, training, and experience has successfully demonstrated the ability to solve or resolve problems relating to the subject matter, the work, or the project.
- (3) **Personal Fall Arrest System (PFAS)** – A system used to arrest an employee in a fall from a walking – working surface. It consists of a body harness, anchorage, and connector. The means of connection may include a lanyard, deceleration device, lifeline, or a suitable combination of these.
- (4) **Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)** – Equipment worn to minimize exposure to hazards that cause serious workplace injuries and/or illnesses.

**D. DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

(1) **Contractors**

- a. Have an established Fall Protection Program in accordance with OSHA Standards 29 CFR 1910 Subpart D (General industry standards) and 29 CFR 1926 Subpart M (Construction industry standards).
- b. Provide a copy of their Fall Protection Program to the UNLV project manager/point of contact.
- c. Provide appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) to their employees for job tasks that require working at heights and ensure proper use of it.

(2) **Risk Management and Safety (RMS)**

- a. Establish the Fall Protection safety program for UNLV.
- b. Ensure that departments, supervisors, and employees are compliant with the standards and regulations of the program.
- c. Advise, perform, and serve as a resource or qualified person(s) to departments in identifying fall hazards, assessing fall protection/systems, and selecting appropriate PPE.
- d. Maintain employee records of training that is completed.
- e. Provide training for UNLV employees working at heights.

(3) **Department Managers and Supervisors**

- a. Ensure the implementation of the UNLV Fall Protection safety program and all pertinent standards and requirements are adhered to.
- b. Identify fall hazards and activities in the workplace and implement safety measures.
- c. Ensure and verify that employees who will be exposed to or working at heights are trained appropriately.

- d. Provide appropriate PPE to employees as needed for job tasks requiring work at heights and ensure it is being used in accordance with the manufacturer's specifications.
- e. Assign a competent person to inspect fall protection equipment ensuring any faulty, damaged, or worn equipment be removed from service and replaced with appropriate equipment.
- f. Special projects that differ from standard tasks involving working at heights shall be subject to review of procedures with assistance as needed from the Risk Management and Safety department.

**(4) Employees**

- a. Shall comply with the UNLV Fall Protection safety program and adhere to the standards and requirements.
- b. Complete fall protection training before being assigned and working on any tasks at heights.
- c. Identify any hazards before working in order to ensure safe elimination or mitigation of the hazards and to better plan the process of work.
- d. Inspect PPE, PFAS, and other equipment before each use and report any faults, damages, or wear to the management/supervision so that it may be replaced with the appropriate equipment. Use PPE in accordance with the manufacturer's specifications.

**E. TRAINING**

- (1) Training shall be provided to employees prior to beginning any work tasks at height or exposure of fall hazards.
- (2) Training shall include the following areas:
  - a. The nature and recognition of the fall hazards in the work area.
  - b. Employee roles and responsibilities in fall protection.
  - c. Training in emergency procedures.
- (3) Retraining shall be provided whenever:

- a. Changes in the workplace or types of fall protection systems and equipment render previous training obsolete.
- b. Inadequacies in an affected employee's knowledge or use of fall protection equipment indicate that the employee has not retained the vital understanding or skill.

## **F. EMERGENCY PROCEDURES**

- (1) Departments that will establish and maintain in – house rescue capabilities shall have:
  - a. A planned procedure and method of rescue – retrieval in place.
  - b. The rescue equipment in proper condition and readily available.
  - c. At minimum one member of the rescue team shall have basic first aid, CPR, and AED training.
  - d. Re-training and practice of emergency rescue procedures will be required annually.
- (2) In lieu of having an in – house emergency rescue team, departments shall contact emergency services (911) and alert that a falling incident has taken place and requires rescue.

## **G. CONTROL SYSTEMS**

- (1) **Engineering Controls**
  - a. **Guardrails** – Shall comply with OSHA standards; the top rails being 42 inches in height + or – 3 inches as variance. Mid rails being 21 inches in height and toe boards being at least 4 inches in height. Guardrails are to be able to withstand up to 200 pounds of force applied vertically or horizontally in any direction.
  - b. **Personal Fall Arrest Systems** – Fall arrest systems will be used when work is performed at heights where guardrails are not feasible or appropriate. This includes, but is not limited to, full-body harnesses, lanyards, and secure anchorage points to prevent falls. All fall arrest systems will be inspected before each use to ensure they are in proper working condition and comply with manufacturer's specifications.

(2) **Administrative Controls**

- a. **Authorized Access** – Administrative controls such as keys shall be used to limit access to restricted areas where a hazard could potentially be present.
- b. **Warnings** – Caution, danger, and other types of warning signs shall be used to notify people of potential hazards present.

(3) **Personal Protective Equipment**

- a. Full body harnesses and lanyards are examples of PPE to be used as a means to help mitigate falling risks and to reduce the potential severity of a falling incident. PPE should always be viewed as the last means of safety protection rather than the first defense. A competent person shall complete equipment inspections and alert the department managers and supervisors of any faulty, worn, or damaged equipment needing to be replaced.