



City of St. John's Corporate and Operational Policy

Policy: 03-07-41 Fall Protection Policy

Status:

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Index: 03 Human Resources

Section: 07 Health and Safety

Title: 41 Fall Protection Policy

Purpose

To protect Employees from the Hazard of falling from a work area.

Policy Statement

A Fall Protection Program shall be developed and implemented.

Responsibilities:

Directors and Managers shall:

- ensure that a Fall Protection Program is developed for their Department.

Supervisor shall:

- complete the fall protection training seminar;
- identify and document areas where fall protection is required;
- ensure all affected Employees are trained in and comply with the Fall Protection Program;
- purchase the required fall protection equipment;
- develop standard operating practices and review them with the affected Employees.

Employee shall:

- comply with all aspects of the Fall Protection Program;
- complete the fall protection training seminar;
- inspect fall protection equipment before each use and report any defects.

OHS Officer shall:

- provide advice, information and guidance regarding the Fall Protection Program;
- conduct training for Supervisors and Employees on the Fall Protection Program;
- audit the effectiveness of the Fall Protection Program.

Fall Protection Guidelines:

- fall protection systems shall be used by all Employees if they are exposed to a hazard of falling from a work area that is:
 - 3 meters or more above the nearest safe surface or water,
 - Above a surface or thing that could cause injury to the Employee if the Employee were to fall on the surface or thing,
 - Above an open pit, tank or vat containing a hazardous material;
- Employee's shall not enter a place where there is a danger of entrapment in loose material or of being overcome by another cause unless he or she is equipped with a safety harness attached to a lifeline. Also, another Employee must be on site and able to immediately effect a rescue;
- occupants of aerial basket or bucket trucks shall wear fall protection equipment secured to the boom.

Fall Arrest System:

- a fall arrest system shall:
- be adequately secured to
 - an anchorage point, or
 - a lifeline that is:
 - securely fastened to anchor points, or
 - attached to a static line that is securely fastened to anchorage points and that is capable of withstanding 22.2KN.
- include a lanyard,
 - that is attached to an anchor point or lifeline, where practicable, above the shoulder,
- prevent a free fall greater than 1.22m where
- includes a full body harness that
 - is attached to a lanyard;
 - is adjusted to fit the user of the harness.

Where a fall arrest system includes a lifeline, the lifeline shall:

- extend to a safe surface below the work area and be securely attached to an anchorage point;
- be secured at the bottom of the lifeline to prevent tangling or disturbance of

- the line and be free of knots, lubricants and imperfections;
- be free of splices;
- be provided with softeners at all sharp edges or corners to protect against cuts or chafing.

No Employee shall:

- use a lifeline in a fall arrest system while that fall arrest system is being used by another Employee;
- provide a rope for use, or permit a rope to be used, as a lifeline in a fall arrest system where the rope has been used for another purpose.

Where a fall arrest system has arrested the fall of an Employee, the employer shall ensure:

- the fall arrest system is removed from service and inspected by a qualified person;
- the fall arrest system is repaired.

Where a fall arrest system includes a static line, the static line shall:

- have a nominal diameter of at least 12.7mm and be made of plow wire rope;
- be equipped with vertical supports at least every 9m and have a maximum deflection, when taut, of no greater than 381mm for a 9m span;
- be equipped with turnbuckles or other tightening devices;
- be equipped with softeners at all sharp edges to protect against cuts and chafing.

Employers shall have a written safety plan that specifies:

- the procedure to maintain, inspect and use the fall arrest system;
- the procedure for the rescue of an Employee who has fallen and is suspended by the fall arrest system but is unable to effect a self-rescue.

Application

Responsibilities

All employees.

Definitions

References/Appendix

Monitoring and Contravention

Approvals

Finance and Administration Standing Committee report – October 28, 2009; Regular Meeting of Council – November 9, 2009.

Review Period**Available to Public**

- ☒ Yes
- ☐ No