

Team Safety Talks: Fall Protection

Company Name _____ Job Name _____ Date _____

OSHA Subpart M standards stress three types of protection intended to prevent employees from falling off, onto, or through working levels, and to protect them from falling objects.

The three types of fall protection are GUARDRAIL SYSTEMS, SAFETY NET SYSTEMS AND PERSONAL FALL ARREST SYSTEMS. It's up to your employer to determine which method is going to be used when an employee is on a walking or working surface, horizontal or vertical, with an unprotected side or edge which is 6 feet or more above a lower level. This includes floors, roofs, ramps, bridges, runways, etc., but not ladders, vehicles, or trailers on which employees must be located in order to perform their job. Leading edges, residential construction and precast concrete erection may be exceptions to the rule. In these cases the employer must have a qualified person develop a written fall protection plan for the specific area in which this type of work is being performed. The plan must be maintained and kept up to date.

As a construction worker you also need to know that the subpart does NOT apply when employees are making an inspection, investigation, or assessment of workplace conditions prior to the actual start of construction work, or after all construction has been completed.

In addition, Subpart M specifies that body belts are not be acceptable as part of a personal fall arrest system, (note: the use of a body belt in a positioning device system will be acceptable). The use of a non-locking snaphook as a part of personal fall arrest systems and positioning device systems is also prohibited. Non-locking snaphooks and body belts are a thing of the past in the construction industry. Workers use full body harnesses with locking snaphooks for fall arrest systems.

THE STANDARD REQUIRES EMPLOYERS TO TRAIN EMPLOYEES, RETRAIN THEM WHEN EQUIPMENT OR SITE CHANGES OCCUR, AND CERTIFY AND DATE THE TRAINING.

Safety Recommendations: _____

Job Specific Topics: _____

S.D.S Reviewed: _____

Attended By: _____

