

APPENDIX D - Areas or Activities That Require Fall Protection

OSHA has identified 15 areas or activities where some type of fall protection is needed if the potential fall distance is 6 feet or greater. The following are situations where fall protection is needed. Please keep in mind there may be other situations where a fall of 6 feet or more is possible.

Unprotected Sides and Edges

Employees on a walking/working surface with an unprotected side or edge that is 6 feet or more above a lower level shall be protected from falling by the use of guardrail systems or personal fall arrest systems. All employees shall be instructed on the necessary precautions prior to conducting inspections, investigations, or assessments.

Leading Edges

Employees constructing a leading edge that is 6 feet or more above a lower level shall be protected by guardrail systems or personal fall arrest systems. Any employee on a walking/working surface 6 feet or more above a lower level where leading edges are under construction, but the employee is not performing the leading edge work, shall be protected from falling by a guardrail system or personal fall arrest system. If a guardrail system is chosen to provide the fall protection, and a controlled access zone has already been established for leading edge work, the control line may be used in lieu of a guardrail along the edge that parallels the leading edge.

Hoist Areas

Each employee in a hoist area shall be protected from falling 6 feet or more to lower levels by guardrail systems or personal fall arrest systems. If a guardrail system or portion(s) of the system is removed to hoist objects and the employee must lean through the access opening or out over the edge, that employee shall be protected by using a personal fall arrest system.

Openings/Holes

Each employee on walking/working surfaces shall be protected from falling through openings/holes (including skylights and roof penetrations) more than 6 feet above lower levels, by personal fall arrest systems, covers, or guardrails erected around the holes/openings. Each employee shall be protected from tripping or stepping into or through openings/holes by use of hole covers of standard strength and construction. Each employee on a walking/working surface shall be protected from objects falling through openings/holes from above.

Formwork and Reinforcing Steel

Each employee on the face of formwork or reinforcing steel shall be protected from falling 6 feet or more to lower levels by personal fall arrest systems or positioning device systems.

Ramps, Runways, Platforms, and Other Walkways

Each employee on ramps, runways, and other walkways shall be protected from falling 6 feet or more to lower levels by guardrail systems or personal fall arrest systems.

Excavations

Each employee at the edge of an excavation, pit, well, or shaft 6 feet or more in depth shall be protected from falling by guardrail systems, fences, barricades, or covers. Excavations less than 6 feet deep shall be marked with barrier tape and appropriate warning signs.

Dangerous Equipment

Each employee working above dangerous equipment regardless of height shall be protected from falling into or onto equipment by guardrail equipment or by equipment guards. Each employee 6 feet or more above dangerous equipment shall be protected from fall hazards by guardrail systems or personal fall arrest systems.

Overhand Bricklaying and Related Work

Each employee performing overhand bricklaying and related work 6 feet or more above lower levels, shall be protected from falling by guardrail systems, personal fall arrest systems, or shall work in a controlled

access zone. Any employee reaching more than 10 inches below the level of the walking/working surface on which they are working shall be protected from falling by a guardrail system or personal fall arrest system.

Low Slope Roofs

Employees performing roofing activities on low-slope roofs with unprotected sides and edges 6 feet or more above lower levels shall be protected from falling by the following systems:

- Guardrail systems;
- Personal fall arrest systems; or
- A combination of the following:
 - Warning line system and guardrail system;
 - Warning line system and personal fall arrest system;
 - Warning line system and safety monitoring system.

Steep Roofs

Each employee on a steep roof with unprotected sides and edges 6 feet or more above lower levels shall be protected from falling by guardrail systems with toeboards or personal fall arrest systems.

Precast Concrete Erection

Each employee engaged in the erection of precast concrete members and related operations working 6 feet or more above lower levels shall be protected from falling by guardrail systems or personal fall arrest systems.

Wall Openings

Each employee working on, at, above, or near wall openings where the outside bottom edge is 6 feet or more above lower levels and the inside bottom edge of the wall opening is less than 39 inches above the walking/working surface, shall be protected from falling. This protection shall be provided through the use of guardrail systems or a personal fall arrest system.

Protection from Falling Objects

When an employee is exposed to falling objects, Indiana University requires that each employee wear a hard hat and implement one of the following measures:

- Erect toe boards, screens, or guardrail systems to prevent objects from falling from higher levels;
- Erect a canopy structure and keep potential falling objects far enough from the edge of the upper level;
or
- Barricade the area where overhead objects could fall and prohibit employees from entering the area.

Walking/Working Surfaces Not Addressed

If the specific activity was not addressed above, each employee on a walking/working surface 6 feet or more above a lower level shall be protected by a guard rail system or personal fall arrest system.