

Navy Public Works Center
Detachment Philadelphia

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE

FALL PROTECTION

PROCEDURE NUMBER 500 .14

DISCLAIMER: These Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) are for the exclusive use of NAVY PUBLIC WORKS CENTER (PWC) NORFOLK DETACHMENT PHILADELPHIA. They are promulgated as guidance for other NAVFAC COMMANDS. If intended to be used by other Activities, they must be tailored to each Activities particular requirement and must be reviewed/approved by the activities Safety Professionals prior to use.

Preparer: _____
(Date)

Approved: _____
(Date)

Safety Professional: _____
(Date)

Department Head: _____
(Date)

Officer in Charge _____
(Date)

Standard Operating Procedure Personal Fall Protection

This Standard Operation Procedure will be used for Issuing, Wearing and Inspection of Personal Fall Protection for all Code 500 employees.

Starting January 01, 1998 the use of body belts for fall arrest systems will be prohibited.

Full body harnesses will be used starting **January 01, 1998** for personal fall protection.

All body harnesses will be issued by tool room. Body Harnesses should be turned in every 30 days for inspection and reissue.

Personal fall arrest systems must be inspected prior to each use for wear damage, and other deterioration. Defective components must be removed from service.

1. OSHA=S rule identifies areas where fall protection is needed. These include, but are not limited to, ramps, runways, and other walkways; excavations, hoist areas; holes, form work, and reinforcing steel; leading edge work, unprotected sides and edges; overhead bricklaying and related work; roofing work; precast concrete erection; wall openings; residential construction; and other walking/working surfaces. The rule sets a uniform height of **6' feet** thereby providing consistent protection. This means that construction employers must protect their employees from fall hazards and falling objects whenever an affected employee is **6' feet** or more above lower level. Protection must also be provided for construction workers who are exposed to the hazard of falling into dangerous equipment.

2. Fall protection must be worn on all aerial lift devices.

3. Fall protection must be worn while erecting; dismantling and altering scaffolding.

Duty to Have Fall Protection

Supervisors are required to assess the work place to determine if the walking/working surface on which employees are to work have the strength and structural integrity to safely support workers. Employees are not permitted to work on those surfaces until it has been determined that the surfaces have the requisite strength and structural integrity to support the workers. Once **Supervisors** have determined that the surface is safe for employees to work on, the supervisor must select one of the options listed for the work operation if a fall hazard is present.

For example, if an employee is exposed to falling **6 feet** or more from an unprotected side or edge, the **supervisor** must select either a guiderail system, safety net system, or personal fall arrest system to protect the worker.

