



CHAPTER 18

Fall Protection/Fall Restraint Program

POLICY

The Flight Department is committed to protecting personnel from fall hazards associated with working on raised platforms, work stands, ladders and any unprotected walking surface more than 4 feet above the ground. The Department Fall Protection Program is designed to provide direction and procedures to ensure that work on such devices is performed safely. Fall protection shall follow all local and OSHA standards for General Industry at a minimum.

PROCEDURE

GENERAL. All employees who work in areas that contain fall hazards of four feet or greater must use appropriate fall protection or fall restraint. Where practical, fall protection is the preferred method.

DEFINITIONS.

Fall Protection:	Guards, rails, or other physical means to provide a barrier between a worker and a potential fall hazard.
Fall Restraint:	A deceleration device worn by an employee to stop a fall before reaching a lower level. Department fall restraint systems may consist of, but not limited to an energy absorber, cable, carabineer, self-retracting lifeline, and full body harness.

RESPONSIBILITIES.

The Safety Manager is responsible for:

- Issuing and administering this program IAW OSHA and local regulations.
- Ensuring that management is notified if available fall protection/fall restraint is inadequate.
- Performing an annual risk assessment of the fall protection program.

Supervisors are responsible for:

- Providing initial and periodic training to applicable personnel on fall protection/fall restraint.
- Maintaining records of training conducted.
- Knowledge and awareness of the hazards in the facility that require fall protection/fall restraint.
- Ensuring that fall protection/restraint is utilized on all tasks when required.
- Maintaining fall restraint systems in workable order in accordance with manufacturer's recommendations and maintenance schedule.

Authorized personnel are responsible for:

- Utilizing fall protection/restraint according in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.
- Properly maintaining their personal fall restraint system components and notifying their supervisor of any discrepancies.

INSPECTION AND MAINTENANCE

Fall protection and fall restraint devices must be maintained in serviceable condition and in accordance with manufacturer's recommendations. Each device must be inspected on a specified time schedule to assess its working

Safety Best Practices Manual

condition. These inspections shall be documented. When a device is found to be unserviceable or suspect, it will be taken out of service, tagged, and removed from the area, and the supervisor notified as soon as possible. Additionally, each fall protection/fall restraint device must be inspected by the user prior to and following each use.

FALL RESTRAINT DEVICES

Fall restraint will be provided for work on elevated working surfaces as well as elevated portions of aircraft. To reduce any pendulum effect, the work area should be placed directly below the hangar cable system. In no case should work be performed with the lifeline outside of a 15-degree cone from the vertical. The lifeline should be attached to a tight-fitting harness prior to ascent to the work area. The lifeline should be allowed to retract unrestricted without any slack remaining. The lifeline should be disconnected and inspected after descending from the work area.

In the event of a fall while using a fall restraint device, immediately notify emergency fire and medical services for extraction and medical follow-up. Breathing may be restricted while suspended in a fall restraint harness. For this reason, fall restraint devices should never be used while working alone. An alternate form of fall protection should be selected while working alone.

Certain fall restraint system components are designed to bend or deform to absorb the energy of a fall. As such, all components involved in arresting a fall shall be taken out of service and tagged unusable until an inspection is performed by a qualified representative of the manufacturer. All damaged items shall be replaced or repaired prior to returning the system to service.