

Safety Absolute Brief Facts



FALL PROTECTION – CONTROLLING FALL HAZARDS

Fall protection is required when exposed to a potential fall hazard. A fall hazard is defined as work taking place 6' above a lower landing on construction or when work is to take place 4' above a lower landing on service and repair.

There are three ways to control fall hazards. Eliminating the fall hazard should be your first consideration (elimination). Your second consideration is a guardrail system or barricades (an engineering control). The third consideration is a personal fall arrest system (PPE). It is ALWAYS best to eliminate the hazard if possible.

If you can't eliminate the fall hazard, you will need to take steps to protect yourself and others. Here are some engineering controls that can be implemented:

1. Mostly used on construction and modernization jobs, a guardrail system or solid barricade can be installed. An OSHA compliant guardrail system consists of a top rail at 42" +/- 3", a mid-rail 21" at the centerline, and toe board that is 3 ½" high. Uprights shall be spaced no more than 8' apart. The top rail shall be capable of sustaining a force of 200 lbs. and shall not deflect lower than 39". The mid rail shall be capable of sustaining a force of 150 lbs., and the toe board shall be capable of sustaining 50 lbs.

NOTE: Solid barricades at least 8' in height fully enclosing the potential fall hazard should be installed in any location in which the public may access the area where the fall hazard exists (modernization, major repair, etc.).

Mostly used during maintenance and repair, warning barricades can be installed. Barricades shall be positioned to restrict public access to the area where the fall hazard exists. Barricades shall be a minimum of 42" high, shall cover the entire entrance, and all sections shall be connected. A system shall be in place to keep the barricade rigid.



Guardrail system



Barricade



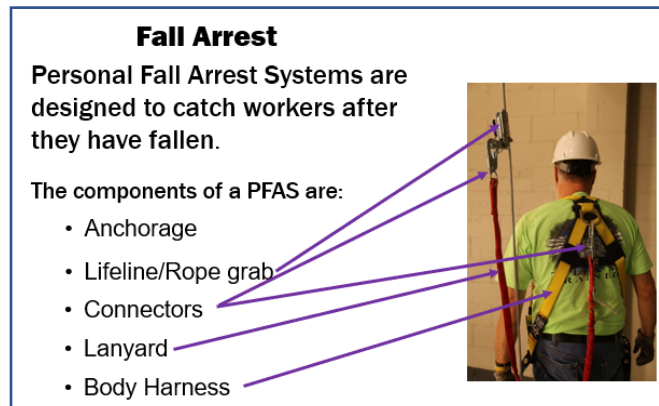
Barricade

2. If you can't eliminate the hazard and can't use a guardrail system or barricades, you must install a Personal Fall-Arrest System (PFAS). When working at heights above 6' on construction and 4' on service and repair, a company approved, properly installed,

inspected, and maintained Personal Fall-Arrest System shall meet the following minimum requirements:

- Only company approved lifelines with a breaking strength of no less than 5000 lbs. are to be used, and only one worker is permitted per line.
- Vertical hoistway lifelines should be long enough to cover the area of work and be installed in such a way to permit tying off before entering the hoistway
- Only company approved full-body harnesses and shock-absorbing lanyards are to be used.
- Lanyards shall be anchored to lifelines using a rope grab only.
- Lanyards shall be attached to the lifeline above shoulder height.
- Each harness and lanyard shall be inspected thoroughly before each use.

Note: All personal Fall arrest equipment must be Inspected and maintained according to manufacture recommendations. If any defects are found, the equipment must be tagged defective and removed from service.



Components of a PFAS

Summary

The intent of this Safety Absolutes Brief Fact Sheet and Procedure is to make sure that all mechanics and apprentices fully understand fall protection. When conventional means cannot be used in accordance with this Safety Absolutes Brief Fact Sheet and Procedure or in accordance with the Elevator Industry Field Employee Safety handbook or your company fall protection policy and if you must deviate from these practices, a written JHA shall be approved by your manager/supervisor before proceeding.

Through the Alliance between OSHA's 10 Regional Offices and the Elevator Contractors of America (ECA), Elevator Industry Work Preservation Fund (EIWPF), International Union of Elevator Constructors (IUEC), National Association of Elevator Contractors (NAEC), National Elevator Industry Educational Program (NEIEP), and National Elevator Industry Inc. (NEII), collectively known as The Elevator Industry Safety Partners, developed this Industry Specific Training for informational purposes only. It does not necessarily reflect the official views of OSHA or the U.S. Department of Labor. March 2025

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