



## Fall Protection Program December 31, 2009

### A. PURPOSE

This document establishes the minimum requirements for fall protection at the University of Nevada Las Vegas (UNLV) for employees:

- (1) Whose walking/working surfaces are at elevations of 4 feet or more above the next lower surface (adjacent floor or ground level).
- (2) Who work near or above any dangerous operations or equipment regardless of height.

This policy addresses falls from one level to another (fall from heights) and includes fall protection requirements for working on scaffolds, aerial lifts, stairways, and ladders. The policy does not apply when employees are making an inspection, investigation, or assessment of workplace conditions prior to actual construction work or after construction work has been completed.

### B. SCOPE

All UNLV employees and private contractors are required to comply with the program elements described herein. This program is based in part upon the elements of the following references:

- (1) 29 CFR 1926 Subpart M – Fall Protection
- (2) 29 CFR 1910.66, Subpart M, Appendix C – Personal Fall Arrest System
- (3) OSHA Publication 3146 – Fall Protection in Construction

### C. DEFINITIONS

- (1) **Competent Person** – A person capable of identifying existing and predictable hazards in the surroundings or working conditions which are hazardous to employees, and who has the authority to take prompt corrective measures to eliminate them.
- (2) **Qualified Person** – A person, who by possession of a recognized degree, certificate, or professional standing, or who by extensive knowledge, training, and experience, has successfully demonstrated the ability to

solve or resolve problems relating to the subject matter, the work, or the project.

## D. DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

### (1) Risk Management and Safety (RMS)

- a. Develop, implement, and maintain a written Fall Protection Program that complies with the requirements of federal, state, and local regulations.
- b. As requested, assist department managers in the review and evaluation of jobs, assignments, and walking/working surfaces to determine fall protection requirements.
- c. As requested, assist with the evaluation and selection of fall protection systems and components to be used at UNLV.
- d. Investigate any fall incidents and near-misses.
- e. Conduct or arrange for training for affected employees.

### (2) Departmental Managers and Supervisors

- a. Review and evaluate jobs to determine fall protection requirements. Request the assistance of RMS if necessary.
- b. Ensure that affected employees who are exposed to potential fall hazards are trained as required by this procedure.
- c. Ensure that all fall protection used in their shops comply with the criteria in this document.
- d. Ensure that affected employees inspect and maintain fall protection systems used.
- e. Assist in the investigation of accidents or near-misses.

### (3) Affected Employees

- a. Affected employees shall complete Fall Protection training.
- b. Conduct all required user-inspections on fall protection systems and maintain the systems in good condition.

- c. Notify supervisor when defective systems are identified and remove from service (to be destroyed).
- d. Participate in the evaluation and selection of personal fall arrest systems and their components.

#### (4) Contractors

- a. Contractors who work on UNLV property shall follow their company's fall protection requirements when working at heights on UNLV property.
- b. Provide a copy of their company fall protection program to a UNLV representative.

### E. TRAINING

#### (1) Training shall include the following areas:

- a. The nature and recognition of the fall hazards in the work area.
- b. Employee roles and responsibilities in fall protection.
- c. Training in emergency procedures.

#### (2) Retraining shall be provided whenever:

- a. Changes in the workplace or types of fall protection systems and equipment render previous training obsolete.
- b. Inadequacies in an affected employee's knowledge or use of fall protection equipment indicate that employee has not retained the requisite understanding or skill.

### F. EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

For departments that choose to maintain in-house rescue capabilities:

- (1) A pre-planned rescue procedure and method of retrieval shall be in place.
- (2) All equipment needed for rescue shall be readily available.

- (3) At least one member of the rescue team shall have training in basic first aid, CPR (cardio-pulmonary resuscitation), and use of an AED (automated external defibrillator).
- (4) Annual re-training and practice shall be required for rescue team members.
- (5) In the absence of an in-house rescue team, call 911 and inform dispatcher that a fall has occurred and a rescue team is required.

## G. RECORDS MANAGEMENT

Training records will be maintained by the RMS Safety Training Officer.

Prepared by Risk Management and Safety