Fall Protection

# Company Policy

Company Name is dedicated to the protection of its employees from occupational injuries and illnesses. Company Name is responsible for providing a safe working environment, and the employees have and assume the responsibility of working safely.

The objective of this program is to supplement the safety policy by providing specific standards regarding Fall Protection, and to ensure that each employee is adequately trained and fully aware of safety procedures associated with Fall Protection.

Elimination of injuries and illnesses improves employee morale, improves customer service, improves product quality, and reduces Workers’ Compensation costs. Fall protection serves as a tool to increase employee protection, and to reduce jobsite hazards.

Company Name requires that fall protection equipment be provided to and utilized by employees in the prevention of occupational injuries and illnesses.

Job Title/Specific Name shall be designated as a "Competent Person" for fall protection, and shall conduct routine safety inspections of jobsites to ensure compliance with this program. Job Title/Specific Name has the authority to enforce the Fall Protection program in accordance to any and all Company Name safety rules and applicable OSHA regulations. Additional personnel shall be designated as competent persons for fall protection, as deemed necessary by management.

Employees are required to comply with the guidelines set forth, and to comply with the instruction of Job Title/Specific Name. In the event an unsafe condition arises in the absence of Job Title/Specific Name, employees shall alert the lead person on the jobsite immediately. Employees shall alert coworkers of any unsafe conditions that arise.

Any Company Name employee who disobeys and/or disregards the guidelines set forth in this program or the company’s safety program shall be subject to disciplinary action.

**Fall Protection Requirements**

* Except as set forth in 29CFR1926 Subpart R "Steel Erection," Company Name employees engaged in construction activities 6 feet or more above lower levels shall be protected by either guardrail systems or personal fall arrest system unless an alternative fall protection measure is utilized.
* When it is demonstrated that it is infeasible or creates a greater hazard to use one of these systems while performing a specific task, then Company Name shall develop and implement a fall protection plan that meets the following requirements:
* Company Name fall protection plan shall be prepared by Job Title/Specific Name and developed specifically for the site where the residential construction work is being performed. The plan must be maintained up to date.
* Any changes to the fall protection plan shall be approved by Job Title/Specific Name.
* A copy of the fall protection plan with all approved changes shall be maintained at the job site.
* The implementation of the fall protection plan shall be under the supervision of Job Title/Specific Name.
* The fall protection plan shall document the reasons why the use of conventional fall protection systems is infeasible or why their use would create a greater hazard to employees.
* The fall protection plan shall include a written discussion on why other measures taken to reduce or eliminate the fall hazard for employees will be utilized in lieu of conventional fall protection.
* The fall protection plan shall identify processes where conventional fall protection methods cannot be used.
* When no other measures are feasible a safety monitoring system shall be implemented.
* Only properly trained and authorized employees shall work from height.
* *In the event a Company Name employee falls, or a near miss occurs, Job Title/Specific Name shall perform an accident investigation to determine if new practices, procedures, or training needs to be implemented. Company Name will immediately implement those changes to prevent similar types of falls or incidents.*

**(Co Name) Residential Construction Fall Protection Plan**

**Date Plan Prepared or Modified: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Plan Prepared By: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

## Statement of Company Policy

This Fall Protection Plan addresses the use of conventional fall protection at a number of areas on the project, as well as identifies specific activities that require non-conventional means of fall protection. During the construction of residential buildings under 48 feet in height, it is sometimes infeasible or it creates a greater hazard to use conventional fall protection systems at specific areas or for specific tasks.

* In these cases, conventional fall protection systems may not be the safest choice for builders. This plan is designed to enable employers and employees to recognize the fall hazards associated with this job and to establish the safest procedures that are to be followed in order to prevent falls to lower levels or through holes and openings in walking/working surfaces.
* Each employee will be trained in these procedures and will strictly adhere to them except when doing so would expose the employee to a greater hazard. If, in the employee's opinion, this is the case, the employee is to notify the competent person of the concern and have the concern addressed before proceeding.
* It is the responsibility of Job Title/Specific Name to implement this Fall Protection Plan. Frequent observational safety checks of work operations and the enforcement of the safety policy and procedures shall be regularly enforced. The crew supervisor or foreman Specific Name is responsible for correcting any unsafe practices or conditions immediately.
* It is the responsibility of Company Name to ensure that all employees understand and adhere to the procedures of this plan and to follow the instructions of the crew supervisor. It is also the responsibility of the employee to bring to management's attention any unsafe or hazardous conditions or practices that may cause injury to either themselves or any other employees. Any changes to the Fall Protection Plan must be approved by Job Title/Specific Name.
* Installation of roof trusses/rafters, exterior wall erection, roof sheathing, floor sheathing and joist/truss activities will be conducted by employees who are specifically trained to do this type of work and are trained to recognize the fall hazards. The nature of such work normally exposes the employee to the fall hazard for a short period of time. This Plan details how Company Name will minimize these hazards. Only properly trained workers will be allowed to work under the scope of this fall protection plan.

### Fall Protection Systems to Utilize on This Job

**Working on top of foundation walls and formwork:** Straddling the wall or formwork could be considered a safe work practice. Work will be performed from ladders or approved scaffolds whenever feasible. Work will not be performed while standing on top of the foundation wall or formwork.

**Working atop unsheathed floor joists:** An employee misstep is likely to cause a fall only to the level the employee is standing or walking on, and will probably not result in serious injury. The first row of sheathing will be installed from the ground if less than 6’ and on ladders, carpenter bracket scaffolds, etc. if greater than 6’. Once the first row of sheathing is down, climb atop the sheathing and continue with the second row. (It is understood that employees will be in harm’s way for brief periods while installing the second row but will have received special training to recognize the hazards). After the second row of sheathing is installed, anchorage points can be placed in appropriate locations for employees to use PFASs (Personal Fall Arrest System, ie: harnesses with retractables or rope grabs) while completing the decking operation. Pass the decking up through the floor joist if the exterior fall is greater than 6’ which will prevent the employee from being pulled over the side. If material is pulled from over the side, that employee must be in a fall restraint system. The hazard becomes greater when the worker moves near the perimeter of the structure or near a large floor hole. All floor holes, such as Chimney/hearth holes, HVAC channels, etc., shall be properly covered to prevent injury from falling. Such covers shall be secured and marked “HOLE” or “COVER”.

**Erecting exterior walls:** Once the floor is completely sheathed, a warning notification, via the painting of a brightly-colored line on the subfloor sheathing, will be delineated six feet in from all perimeter sides of the structure. Employees will be trained that they can work inside these lines without fall protection but if work is required outside the lines, PFASs are required. An example would be where most of the wall being built would be inside the “safe zone” but one employee would be responsible for nailing the bottom plate. That employee would be required to work outside the “safe zone” and would be required to use fall protection. The bottom plate should be toe nailed for stability during the nailing process and raising the wall. After all the exterior walls are raised and braced, the window and door openings should have guard rails installed at the appropriate height. Any large openings such as stair wells, atriums, etc. should have the permanent walls installed and or guardrails built. This process continues until all exterior walls are erected and then the walls will act as fall protection for employees.

**[*THIS NOTE TO BE REMOVED FROM SAFETY PROGRAM AFTER COMPLETION* – UNLESS YOU ARE INSTALLING BOTH TRUSSES AND STICK BUILT ROOF SYSTEMS IN THE SAME STRUCTURE, either the section “Setting roof trusses” or the section “Stick framing of roof system”, below, should be left in your plan, unless you have both in a house you are constructing. Otherwise you would need a truss fall protection plan, a stick-built fall protection plan, and a combo fall protection plan. OSHA DOES NOT LIKE A “ONE SIZE FITS ALL” GENERIC PLAN. For residential construction, the fall protection plan need not be singularly site specific, but must be applicable to the site and structure, and contain no extraneous material. However, a unique site and/or structure may make a site-specific plan necessary. This relaxation of the requirement for site-specific fall-protection plans will allow a residential builder who builds almost-identical structures on multiple sites to have one, two, or several standardized plans for many structures. However, an all-encompassing "canned" plan which contains material not applicable to the structure at issue is not acceptable!]**

**Setting roof trusses:** The truss system is designed to operate as a complete system, therefore utilization of a truss as an PFAS attachment point before the system is complete could lead to truss failure/collapse, and result in unnecessary injuries to both workers attached and on the work surface below (all manufacturers recommend permanent bracing has to be in for the system to be structurally sound). During some of the erection and bracing of roof trusses/rafters, conventional fall protection may present a greater hazard to workers. On this job, guardrails and personal fall arrest systems may not provide adequate fall protection because there are no suitable attachment or anchorage points for guardrails or personal fall arrest systems. The competent person shall decide when attachment points or other means of conventional fall protection are adequate for the process, and shall require employees to utilize the same upon that determination.

* Company Name shall take the following steps to protect workers who are exposed to fall hazards while securing trusses at the peak of the trusses:
1. No more than two individuals shall be in the webbing of the trusses.
2. A competent person shall be in the area of work monitoring all work processes prior to the use of PFAS.
3. All fastening of trusses to wall top plates shall be performed from approved scaffolding inside the walls or ladders.
4. No work is allowed while standing on the top plate of the wall. After the last truss is installed, all permanent bracing shall be installed prior to starting the sheathing of the roof.
5. After the permanent bracing is installed, the first course of sheathing shall be installed from within the webbing.
6. Once the first course of sheathing is installed, the truss system shall be utilized for PFAS attachment points. PFAS shall be utilized for all remaining work on the roof structure.
7. Piggy-back trusses shall only be installed after the main roof structure is complete, including all permanent bracing and roof sheathing. Piggy-back trusses shall be installed utilizing PFAS.

**Stick framing of roof system:** Structures tend to be weak and unstable in the early stages, making tie-off infeasible.

* Company Name shall take the following steps to protect workers who are exposed to fall hazards while securing trusses at the peak of the trusses:
1. Scaffolds and or ladders could protect workers more effectively than the job-made walk boards commonly used, and will be utilized whenever feasible.
2. For the use of site made scaffolds while working at the ridge pole, the scaffold shall be built to support the 4 times the working load.
3. Guardrails shall be installed, if feasible. If not feasible, the worker shall utilize a PFAS attached to an attachment point on the ridge pole once the competent person has determined that the ridge pole is structurally supported/braced enough to be used as an attachment point.

**Installing roof sheathing:**

* Company Name shall take the following steps to protect workers who are exposed to fall hazards while installing roof sheathing:
1. After all trusses have been installed and braced to the manufacture’s recommendations, the first row of sheathing shall be installed from within the truss webbing/ bottom chord. PFAS shall be utilized to complete the roof sheathing process.
2. Once roof sheathing installation begins, workers not involved in that activity shall not stand or walk below or adjacent to the roof opening or exterior walls in any area where they could be struck by falling objects.
3. The competent person shall determine the limits of this area, which shall be clearly communicated to workers prior to placement of the first piece of roof sheathing.
4. The competent person may order work on the roof to be suspended for brief periods as necessary to allow other workers to pass through such areas when this would not create a greater hazard.
5. Only qualified workers shall install roof sheathing.
6. After the bottom row of roof sheathing is installed, a slide guard extending the width of the roof shall be securely attached to the roof. Slide guards are to be constructed of no less than nominal 4" height capable of limiting the uncontrolled slide of workers. Workers should install the slide guard while standing in truss webs and leaning over the sheathing.
7. Additional rows of roof sheathing may be installed by workers positioned on previously installed rows of sheathing. A slide guard can be used to assist workers in retaining their footing during successive sheathing operations.
8. When wet weather (rain, snow, or sleet) is present, roof sheathing operations shall be suspended unless safe footing can be assured for those workers installing sheathing.
9. When strong winds (above 40 miles per hour) are present, roof sheathing operations are to be suspended unless wind breakers are erected.

**Installing or disassembling fall-protection systems:** Employees shall be temporarily and necessarily exposed to fall hazards while installing or disassembling fall-protection systems only to the shortest time period feasible.

**Enforcement**

* Constant awareness of and respect for fall hazards, and compliance with all safety rules are considered conditions of employment. Supervisors reserve the right to issue disciplinary warnings to employees, up to and including termination, for failure to follow the guidelines of this program.

**Accident Investigations**

* All incidents that result in injury to workers, regardless of their nature, shall be investigated and reported. It is an integral part of any safety program that documentation of the incident be performed as soon as possible so that the cause and means of prevention can be identified to prevent a reoccurrence.
* In the event that an employee falls or there is some other related, serious incident occurring, this plan shall be reviewed to determine if additional practices, procedures, or training need to be implemented to prevent similar types of falls or incidents from occurring.

**Changes to Plan**

* Any changes to the plan will be approved by Job Title/Specific Name. This plan shall be reviewed by a qualified person as the job progresses to determine if additional practices, procedures or training needs to be implemented by the competent person to improve or provide additional fall protection. Workers shall be notified and trained, if necessary, in the new procedures. A copy of this plan and all approved changes shall be maintained at the jobsite.

### Enforcement and Employee Responsibilities to Follow the Plan

* All employees of Company Name are required to comply with the rules set forth in this written program. This program is intended to provide the maximum protection for employees of Company Name. Failure by any employee to fully comply with the plan may result in retraining and/or disciplinary actions up to termination of employment.