

MIOSHA

Sample Fall Protection Plan for Residential Construction Work



Employers engaged in residential construction work who can demonstrate that it is infeasible or creates a greater hazard to use conventional fall protection systems must develop and follow a site-specific fall protection plan. The plan must conform to the following provisions.

- The plan shall be prepared by a qualified person and developed specifically for the site.
- The plan must be maintained up to date.
- Any changes to the fall protection plan shall be approved by a qualified person.
- A copy of the fall protection plan shall be maintained at the job site.
- The implementation of the fall protection plan shall be under the supervision of a competent person.
- 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.
- The fall protection plan shall include a discussion of other measures that will be taken to reduce or eliminate the fall hazard for workers who cannot be provided with protection from the conventional fall protection systems.
- The fall protection plan shall identify each location where conventional fall protection methods cannot be used. These locations shall then be classified as controlled access zones.

This document is a tool to assist in developing a written site specific fall protection plan that conforms to the provisions of MIOSHA Construction Safety and Health Standard Part 45. Fall Protection rule 1926.502(k). There is no requirement that an employer use this exact format in developing a written site specific fall protection plan. This sample plan is designed to be adapted to each individual employer's need. It does not substitute for a full reading of the standard.

Contact the Consultation, Education, and Training Division at 517-284-7720 or go to the website at www.michigan.gov/cetrca for training and assistance.

Fall Protection Plan for Residential Construction

Enter Company Name Here

A site specific job hazard analysis has determined that conventional fall protection is infeasible or creates a greater hazard for one or more activities at this project. This fall protection plan is specific for the following project:

Location of job:

Date plan prepared or modified:

Plan prepared by:

Plan approved by:

Plan implemented by:

A separate Job Hazard Analysis (JHA) is required for each jobsite.

I. Statement of Company Policy

Your company name here is dedicated to the protection of its employees from on-the-job injuries. All employees of *your company name here* have the responsibility to work safely on the job. The purpose of the plan is to supplement our existing safety and health program and to ensure that every employee who works for *your company name here* recognizes workplace fall hazards and takes the appropriate measures to address those hazards.

This site specific fall protection plan is available only to our employees engaged in residential construction work who can demonstrate that it is infeasible or it creates a greater hazard to use conventional fall protection equipment. “Infeasible” means that it is impossible to perform the construction work using a conventional fall protection system (i.e., guardrail system, safety net system, or personal fall arrest system) or that it is technologically impossible to use any one of these systems to provide fall protection. This fall protection plan identifies specific activities that require non-conventional means of fall protection. **At all other areas of the job site not specifically addressed by this plan, conventional fall protection and compliance with MIOSHA standards and company rules shall continue.**

This plan is designed to enable employers and employees to recognize the fall hazards associated with this job and to establish the safest procedures 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 their concern and have the concern addressed before proceeding.

It is the responsibility of *name of competent person* to implement this fall protection plan. Continual observational safety checks of work operations and the enforcement of the safety policy and procedures shall be regularly enforced. The crew supervisor or foreman, *insert name*, is responsible for correcting any unsafe practices or conditions immediately.

It is the responsibility of the employer 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 *name of qualified person*.

II. Infeasibility or Greater Hazard Evaluation

Describe each type of fall protection or work method considered. For each, discuss why they are infeasible or would create a greater hazard. At a minimum, discuss personal fall arrest system, guardrails, safety nets, ladders, scaffolds, and aerial work platforms (boom lifts and scissor lifts).

III. Alternative Protective Measures

List the alternative measures that will be taken to reduce or eliminate the fall hazard for workers who cannot be provided with protection from conventional fall protection systems.

IV. Controlled Access Zones

When using a fall protection plan, employees must be protected by limiting access to high hazard locations. Before any non-conventional fall protection system is used as part of the work plan, a Controlled Access Zone (CAZ) shall be clearly defined by the competent person as an area where a recognized hazard exists.

The following locations have been identified as locations where conventional fall protection methods or other safe access methods cannot be used. These locations are classified as a CAZ.

The demarcation of the CAZ shall be communicated by the competent person in a recognized manner, either through signs, wires, tapes, ropes or chains. *Your company name here* shall take the following steps to ensure that the CAZ is clearly marked or controlled by the competent person:

1. All access to the CAZ must be restricted to authorized entrants;
2. All employees who are permitted in the CAZ shall be listed in the Plan (or be visibly identifiable by the competent person) prior to implementation;

3. The competent person shall ensure that all protective elements of the CAZ are implemented prior to the beginning of work.

The following employees are designated to work in a CAZ at this project. No other employees may enter a CAZ.

V. Safety Monitoring System

If no other alternative measure has been implemented to replace conventional fall protection, the employer shall implement a safety monitoring system in conformance with 1926.502(h). Safety monitoring systems and their use shall comply with all the following provisions:

- a. The employer shall designate a competent person to monitor the safety of other employees and the employer shall ensure that the safety monitor complies with the following requirements.
- b. The safety monitor shall be competent to recognize fall hazards;
- c. The safety monitor shall warn the employee when it appears that the employee is unaware of a fall hazard or is acting in an unsafe manner;
- d. The safety monitor shall be on the same walking/working surface and within visual sighting distance of the employee being monitored;
- e. The safety monitor shall be close enough to communicate orally with the employee; and
- f. The safety monitor shall not have other responsibilities which could take the monitor's attention from the monitoring function.

Mechanical equipment shall not be used or stored in areas where safety monitoring systems are being used to monitor employees engaged in roof operations on low-slope roofs.

No employee, other than an employee engaged in roofing work [on low-sloped roofs] or an employee covered by a fall protection plan, shall be allowed in an area where an employee is being protected by a safety monitoring system.

Each employee working in a controlled access zone shall be directed to comply promptly with fall hazard warnings from safety monitors.

VI. Accident Investigations

In the event an employee falls, or some other related, serious incident occurs, (e.g., a near miss) *your company name here* shall investigate the circumstances of the fall or other incident to determine if the fall protection plan needs to be changed (e.g., new practices, procedures, or training) and shall implement those changes to prevent similar types of falls or incidents. Documentation of all incidents and changes to this plan will be kept on site.



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For further information or to request consultation, education and training services
call (517) 284-7720

or

visit our website at www.michigan.gov/miosha

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