



SAFETY INFORMATION

FALL PROTECTION

APPLICABLE TO:

Anyone working in CSULB Theatre facilities or classrooms, facilities used by the Theatre Arts Department.

RISKS INCLUDE:

Personal injury, injury to others, death, and damage to equipment and facilities.

GUIDELINES, RULES AND PROCEDURES:

- Per CSULB guidelines, employees will not be allowed to perform any duties which require the employee get closer than 6 (six) feet to an unprotected edge, platform walkway or utilize elevated equipment unless the employee is properly secured.
 - Exceptions working without fall protection, but using a university approved alternate measure:
 - Working sides of loading docks
 - Exposed perimeters of theater stages
 - In engineered ante-proscenium lighting bridges and box boom vertical positions
 - When using portable ladders up to 60 feet in length
 - When working on scaffolds and aerial lifts up to 6 feet in height.
- Maintain good housekeeping and report conditions that may lead to slips, trips and falls.
- The cardinal safety rule applies when an employee is working at a height greater than their own height: **Do not back up, turn to face the direction of travel.**
- Set construction and lighting involves exposure to fall hazards from a variety of processes and procedures.
- Fall hazards are present when:
 - Working on ladders
 - Around the paint frame
 - On and outside the catwalks
 - Elevated storage areas of the shops (Scene, Lighting, Costumes, and Props)
 - Unprotected elevated work platforms, such as the open edge of the stage, platforms
 - Scaffolds
- Fall protection to be used at all times while focusing lights in the Studio Theatre catwalks.
- The temporary nature of set construction presents unique challenges where it may be impractical to use conventional fall protection systems or the fall protection systems present a greater hazards. In these special cases, special steps must be taken to protect the cast and crew from falls starting with the creation of a Fall Protection Plan that is developed by a qualified person (person designated by the employer who by reason of training, experience or instruction has demonstrated the ability to safely perform all assigned duties and, when required, is properly licensed in accordance with federal, state or local laws and regulations)
- Fall protection is required whenever work is performed in an area six (6) feet above its surroundings and can generally be provided through the use of fall protection systems, including:
 - Guardrails: Standard consists of a top rail @ 42" above the floor and at mid rail.

REFERENCES:

Thomas M. Shorrock, Florida Atlantic University, www.fau.edu/~shorrock, Feb. 3, 2006
California State University, Long Beach, Fall Protection Program, June 2009, Safety and Risk Management, Version 1.4
University of California, Performing Arts Safety Manual, provided by University of California, Office of the President, E,H&S

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- Personal Fall Arresting Systems: Body harness, lanyard, lifeline, connector, anchoring point capable of supporting 5000 lbs. Must always be inspected before each use.
 - Those using Personal Fall Arrest Systems must know:
 - The application limits of the equipment, including correct sizing.
 - The proper hook-up, anchoring, and tie off techniques, including determining the elongation and deceleration distance.
 - Methods of use, inspection and storage of the equipment.
 - All personal safety rope (including rescue) must be retired **after five years of service, whether or not the rope has been used.**
 - Ropes for personal safety shall not be used for any other purpose.
- Positioning Device System: Body harness rigged to allow work on a vertical surface, such as a wall, with both hands free.
- Warning Line Systems: Warning line systems are made up of lines or ropes installed to structural vertical members around a work area on a roof, which act as a barrier to prevent walking to the edges.
- Covers: Covers are fastened to holes in the working surface area to prevent falls.
- Alternative Fall Protection: Measures may be implemented if the use of the above systems is infeasible or creates a greater hazard.
 - Edge Proximity Warning Systems: Non-structural vertical and horizontal warning elements of light rope or warning tape around the work area.
 - Any alternative measure must be approved by the TD or supervisor.
- Fall Hazard Recognition
 - To include, and not limited to catwalks, loading bridge, fly loft or grid, fixed ladders, portable ladders, orchestra pit, paint frame floor opening, elevated storage areas, aerial work platforms, trap doors, scenic platforms, scenic stairs, scenic ramps, box boom lighting positions, AP lighting positions, flying performers, stage edge, FOH stairs, scaffolds, followspot positions.
- Hierarchy of Fall Protection Controls, based on ANSI Z359.2-2007(5) Eliminating and Controlling Fall Hazards
 - Elimination or substitution
 - Passive fall protection (i.e. using guardrails, safety nets, hole covers)
 - Active fall protection
 - Fall restraint
 - Fall arrest
 - Administrative Controls (i.e. work practices or procedures, controlled access zones, warning signs)
- If you have any questions or concerns, ask your supervisor or instructor.

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