

## Desert Research Institute Fall Protection Guidelines

All DRI employees working or walking on a surface (1) 4 feet<sup>1</sup> or more above a lower level or (2) above dangerous equipment must use appropriate fall protection. This applies to all DRI employees who may be working at an elevated level, including working from man lifts, working near edges on roofs, and working from/on towers.

### *Key Points:*

- There are three fall protection systems: active, passive and alternate
- Active – The three types of active systems are personal fall arresting mechanisms, positioning device, and a personal fall restraint. Each one consists of three components
  - A full body harness,
  - A connective device
  - An anchorage point
- Passive – Passive fall protection devices include guardrails, safety nets and floor/wall covers.
- Alternate – where a fall protection system is inappropriate, a plan can be devised describing the safety measures to be taken to minimize the risk of fall of the employee.
- Fall arresting systems may not allow the employee to fall further than 6 feet and the lifeline or lanyard must be appropriate for the use (minimum tensile strengths must be met).
- Before performing a job with fall risk, a work plan shall be completed by the employee and supervisor. The plan shall be available at the work site.
- Prior to use of any fall arrest system, the anchor point will be inspected for deterioration, excess wear or cracking. For any abnormalities a qualified person will provide an evaluation and approve its use in written form.
- All fall protection equipment, including harnesses, lanyards and other connectors must be visually inspected before each use. Inspect the equipment and ropes for all items as noted in inspection checklist.
- Monthly inspections, at least annually (for infrequently used equipment)), will be conducted by a competent person, documented and retained for 12 months.
- Where work at an elevated height is required, a man lift will be used where possible. If the man lift is extended higher than 10 feet, a harness will be used by the operator. If a man lift is to be used, it will be inspected and tested for proper operation prior to use.
- For work on towers, the DRI Field Safety guidelines for Tower Safety must be reviewed and followed.
- The supervisor will assess which employees are exposed to a fall risk and will notify EHS. The employees will receive appropriate fall protection training and instructions on use of the fall protection method. The training will be documented.

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<sup>1</sup> The OSHA requirements are 4 feet for General Industry, 5 feet for Maritime and 6 feet for Construction workers. DRI falls under the OSHA General Industry rules, therefore, working at heights at or above four (4) feet require the use of fall protection.

*References:*

Links to OSHA documents referenced here are available on [EH&S External Links](#). Click on “Occupational Safety” at the top of the page to be taken to the correct links.

*Attachments:*

DRI Fall Protection Inspection Checklist

*DRI Resources:*

[DRI Tower Safety Guidelines](#)

[DRI Crane and Hoist Safety](#)



## SHIFT/MONTHLY FALL PROTECTION INSPECTION CHECKLIST

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Time \_\_\_\_\_ Inspector \_\_\_\_\_

Fall Protection \_\_\_\_\_ Location \_\_\_\_\_

Item Inspected	Pass	Fail	Action Taken
1 - Check for cuts, tears, rips, snags punctures, abrasions mold, stretching			
2 - Check for alterations or additions causing system efficiency			
3 - Damage from acids or corrosives			
4 - Check for distorted hooks or faulty hook springs			
5 - Check for cracked, broken, or deformed D-rings, carabiners, grommets and snaphooks			
6 - Ensure mountings and parts are not loose, damaged or non-functioning			
7 - Perform a thorough inspection of all running ropes. Any deterioration, resulting in appreciable loss of original strength, must be carefully observed and determination made as to whether further use of the rope would constitute a safety hazard. Some of the conditions that could result in an appreciable loss of strength are the following:			
a. Reduction of rope diameter below nominal diameter due to loss of core support, internal or external corrosion, or wear of outside wires.			
b. A number of broken outside wires and the degree of distribution or concentration of such broken wires.			
c. Worn outside wires.			
d. Corroded or broken wires at end connections.			
e. Corroded, cracked, bent, worn, or improperly applied end connections			
f. Severe kinking, crushing, cutting, or unstranding			
8 - Inspect for UV exposure deterioration, such as color fading			