

Chapter 18

Fall Protection Program

1. Purpose: The intent of this chapter is to establish a Fall Protection Program for MCAS Cherry Point, provide policy and requirements for the implementation of the program, establish procedures on fall protection and fall prevention for personnel aboard MCAS Cherry Point.
2. Applicability: This program applies to all MCAS Cherry Point military, civilians, and contractors; who are exposed to fall hazards when performing construction, maintenance, or inspection work on an elevated, walking/working surface with unprotected sides, edges, or openings, in which there is a possibility of falling four feet or more to a lower level or where there is a possibility of a fall from any height onto dangerous equipment, into a hazardous environment, or onto an impalement hazard.
3. Background: Falls from heights are the leading cause of injuries and fatalities in the work place. The Marine Corps continues to experience serious fall related mishaps, which lead to lost time injuries, reduced readiness and productivity, or death.
4. MCAS Cherry Point Fall Protection Policy: Our mission at Cherry Point is to provide a safe working environment for all personnel. All exposure to the risk of falling is unacceptable. Minimizing exposure to fall hazards, and eliminating preventable mishaps, is part of mission accomplishment and is our number one task. This Fall Protection Program is part of the overall Cherry Point Safety Program designed to enhance operational readiness by preventing injury, or death of personnel through careful program management. Cherry Point personnel shall take every reasonable precaution to protect themselves and others while working at heights.
5. Duties and Responsibilities: The latest version of the DON Fall Protection guide, reference (v) provides overarching direction for a comprehensive fall protection program. In accordance with reference (v) all departments and activities, which have personnel working at heights above four feet or exposed to fall hazards, shall establish a Fall Protection program. Additionally, in accordance with reference (v), Fall Protection programs shall include identification, elimination, prevention, or control of Fall-Hazards, wherever practical, through engineering controls, training of personnel, proper installation and use of Fall Protection systems, and required rescue equipment and procedures. Additionally, all contractors working aboard MCAS Cherry Point will also abide by provisions EM-385-1-1, Army Corps of Engineers Safety Manual.
 - a. Overall program responsibility lays with the supervisors. Supervisors shall delineate duties and assign responsibilities to qualified and trained personnel involved in the development, management, and implementation of the Fall Protection program.
 - b. Supervisors shall ensure that assigned personnel have the necessary skills, knowledge, training, and expertise to manage, administer, and implement the Fall Protection program. This includes:
 - (1) Comply with the requirements and responsibilities of The DON Fall Protection Manual and OSHA guidelines (ref (d) and (u)).

(2) Ensure installation safety manager, or supervisors assess work site hazards, review pertinent regulations, and update organization SOPs regarding fall protection requirements.

(3) Stop any work operations that are not in compliance.

(4) Ensure personnel who are potentially exposed to fall hazards receive appropriate training and fall protection equipment.

(5) Request assistance (if needed) when assessing potential fall hazards.

(6) Ensure the use fall protection techniques and equipment properly when fall hazards are present.

(7) Inspect fall protection equipment before use and properly maintain per manufacturer's recommendations. Remove from service any personal fall protection equipment that has been shock-loaded until inspected by the manufacturer or other competent persons.

(8) Report unsafe work conditions.

7. Training Requirements: All Navy and Marine Corps personnel working at heights, exposed to Fall-Hazards, using Fall Protection equipment, and other personnel involved in the Fall Protection program, shall be trained to recognize fall hazards in the workplace and how to eliminate, prevent or control such hazards.

a. Training shall be conducted by a designated competent person and shall include:

(1) Nature of fall hazards in work area(s).

(2) Correct procedures for erecting, inspecting, and disassembling fall protection systems to be used.

(3) Use and operation of guardrail systems, personal fall arrest systems, safety net systems, warning line systems, safety monitoring systems, controlled access zones, and any other protection used.

(4) Training will be documented per chapter 4 of this order.