



Fall Hazards

Each year, falls consistently account for the greatest number of accidents and fatalities. Events surrounding these types of accidents often involve a number of factors, including unstable work surfaces, misuse or lack of fall protection equipment, and human error. Studies have shown that the many deaths and injuries from falls can be prevented with the use of guardrails, fall arrest systems, safety nets, covers, and barrier guards.

Serious and fatal injuries can result from falls. Everyone must be alert to the hazards that can cause falls. If hazards are discovered, they must be reported to the supervisor and immediate action must be taken to eliminate them.

The following hazards cause a majority of falls:

- Performing elevated maintenance without the use of proper fall protection. Always wear a personal fall arrest system that is properly fitted. Match the system to the particular work situation and keep the potential free fall distance to a minimum.
- Lumber, debris, slippery surfaces, and unorganized materials and equipment in the work area can cause serious falls hazards. Good housekeeping practices can eliminate these hazards and reduce falls.
- Stairways and stairwells can also be serious hazards. Handrails should always be placed on stairs and stairwells but in most cases, failure to use the handrails has resulted in the most serious injuries. Also, never place or store materials or tools on stairways.
- Floor openings and pits must always be barricaded or covered when not in use. Use planking, netting, or covers that are securely fastened to prevent accidental falls.
- Ladder misuse contributes to a large number accidents and even deaths. Follow proper ladder procedures to reduce your chances. Ladder rails and rungs must always be of the proper design, material and size. Ladders should never be used if the rails are cracked or the rungs are broken.
- Many serious falls can occur while hurrying --WALK, don't run

Safety & Environmental Newsletter

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Wallops Beach Clean – Up October 5, 2013

The Wallops Beach Clean-Up will be held on Saturday October 5, 2013, from 9 am until noon.

Meet at the Island Gate. Bring your badge, water, sunscreen, and your family! To sign-up contact Marianne Simko at x 2127 or Marianne.F.Simko@nasa.gov



Aerosol Can Disposal

The Environmental Office will now be collecting all aerosol cans. No aerosol cans should be placed in the trash, even if they are empty.



If you need a container to collect empty and discarded aerosol cans, please call the Hazardous Waste Hotline at x1718.

If it is more convenient, just call x1718, to schedule a pick up. If you have questions, please call Joe Mitchell at x1127.



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How can you explain the Environmental Management System (EMS) Policy?



When an auditor asks that question, explain that you consider the environment as you do your job. Good examples would be recycling, double sided copying and placing hazardous waste in labeled closed containers.