



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

APPLICABILITY
PRISON/REENTRY

REVISION DATE
9/15/25

PAGE NUMBER
1 of 6

NUMBER
DOC 890.110

POLICY

TITLE
FALL PROTECTION PROGRAM

REVIEW/REVISION HISTORY:

- Effective: 10/24/97
- Revised: 1/15/04
- Revised: 9/25/07
- Reviewed: 11/4/08
- Revised: 9/10/09
- Reviewed: 8/10/11
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- Revised: 1/19/15
- Revised: 12/17/20
- Revised: 2/8/22
- Revised: 9/15/25

SUMMARY OF REVISION/REVIEW:


Major changes to include updated standards. Read carefully!

APPROVED:

Signature on file

TIM LANG, Secretary
Department of Corrections

8/13/25
Date Signed

 <p>STATE OF WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS</p> <p>POLICY</p>	APPLICABILITY PRISON/REENTRY		
	REVISION DATE 9/15/25	PAGE NUMBER 2 of 6	NUMBER DOC 890.110
	TITLE FALL PROTECTION PROGRAM		

REFERENCES:


DOC 100.110 is hereby incorporated into this policy; [RCW 49.17](#); [WAC 296-155](#); [WAC 296-869](#); [WAC 296-874](#); [WAC 296-876](#); [WAC 296-880](#);

POLICY:

- I. The Department recognizes the inherent danger of falls associated with construction, maintenance work, and material handling. This policy is intended to protect employees, contract staff, and incarcerated workers from the risks associated with falls while performing work.

DIRECTIVE:


- I. General Requirements
 - A. Required fall protection threshold heights will be determined per WAC 296-880-090 Unified Fall Protection Quick Reference Guide.
 - B. Each facility will establish a fall protection program that will include:
 1. Written fall protection work plans for work conducted with a fall hazard of 10' or more. A fall protection work plan is not required where the use of a guardrail system eliminates the fall hazard.
 - a. The fall protection work plan must:
 - 1) Be at an active job site and available for inspection.
 - 2) Identify all fall hazards in the work area and describe:
 - a) The method of fall arrest/restraint to be provided
 - b) The proper procedures for the assembly, maintenance, inspection, and disassembly of the fall protection system to be used
 - c) The proper procedures for the handling, storage, and securing of tools and materials
 - d) The method of providing overhead protection for workers who may be in the work area
 - e) The method for prompt, safe removal of injured workers

 <p>STATE OF WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS</p>	APPLICABILITY PRISON/REENTRY		
	REVISION DATE 9/15/25	PAGE NUMBER 3 of 6	NUMBER DOC 890.110
	TITLE FALL PROTECTION PROGRAM		
POLICY			

2. Consideration for guardrail installation, where feasible.
 3. Requirements for proper use of fall protection equipment per manufacturer's instructions, RCW 49.17 Washington Industrial Safety and Health Act, and WAC 296-880 for:
 - a. Platform lifts
 - b. Bucket trucks
 - c. Order pickers (i.e., PITs)
 - d. Other worker lifting equipment
 4. Scaffolding fall protection requirements per WAC 296-880.
- C. Work on or above ceilings or suspended ceilings will be performed by removing enough ceiling tiles or panels to use the appropriate ladders/lifts/platforms.
1. Workers will only enter the ceiling space to perform work when:
 - a. The space is not a suspended ceiling, and
 - b. A developed plan has been established by a qualified person (i.e., someone with a recognized degree or professional certificate who has extensive knowledge and experience in design, analysis, evaluation, and specifications for the subject work/project/product).
 2. If the process cannot be followed to perform the work, the Fall Protection Manager will consult with the Capital Planning and Development Director.
- D. Tower floor hatches will remain closed except when entering/exiting, through the hatch.
1. This requirement will be posted at each hatch and maintained in appropriate post orders. Alternately, adequate guardrails may be installed per WAC 296-880-20005(3)(c).

II. Responsibilities

- A. Each Superintendent/Reentry Center Manager or Correctional Industries Site/ Services Manager overseeing crews requiring fall protection will designate in writing a Fall Protection Manager, who will:
 1. Maintain and implement the facility's fall protection program.
 2. Ensure training is provided for workers that may encounter fall hazards.

 <p>STATE OF WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS</p> <p>POLICY</p>	APPLICABILITY PRISON/REENTRY		
	REVISION DATE 9/15/25	PAGE NUMBER 4 of 6	NUMBER DOC 890.110
	TITLE FALL PROTECTION PROGRAM		

3. Assist employees and workers with ladder selection, appropriate use, and ladder safety training per WAC 296-876.
 4. Use Department of Labor and Industries [F417-102-000 Competent Person Evaluation - Fall Restraint & Fall Arrest](#) to designate competent persons able to identify existing and potential fall hazards.
 5. Maintain a list of designated competent persons.
- B. Competent persons will:
1. Understand and apply regulations, policies, and procedures, and be knowledgeable of fall protection equipment use, including manufacturer's recommendations and instructions for proper use, assembly, inspection, and maintenance.
 2. Coordinate with facility maintenance employees and the Fall Protection Manager to determine and acquire appropriate fall protection equipment needed to conduct construction/maintenance tasks.
 3. Complete DOC 21-583 Fall Protection Work Plan for each project where a fall hazard of 10' or more exists, coordinate and monitor the project and jobsite to ensure the plan is implemented, and amend the plan as workers, equipment, or conditions change.
 - a. The competent person will have the completed plan available onsite.
 - b. The Fall Protection Manager will review and maintain the completed plan.
 - c. The competent person will train workers in the fall protection plan details which will include methods of prompt, safe removal of injured workers.
 4. Coordinate fall protection training for all workers required to use fall protection equipment, including safety monitor/warning line or safety watch systems.
 - a. Training will include all requirements in WAC 296-880-10015 and will be completed before allowing workers to enter areas where fall hazards exist.



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

APPLICABILITY
PRISON/REENTRY

REVISION DATE
9/15/25

PAGE NUMBER
5 of 6

NUMBER
DOC 890.110

POLICY

TITLE
FALL PROTECTION PROGRAM


- b. Employee Fall Protection Awareness training will be documented on a class roster and maintained in the Department’s electronic training system.
- c. Initial incarcerated worker Fall Protection Awareness training will be documented on a class roster.
- d. Site-specific training will be documented on the Fall Protection Site-Specific Training resource guide maintained on the Department’s internal website.
- e. Retraining will be conducted when:
 - 1) There are changes in the workplace or equipment, or
 - 2) Work habits indicate the person has not demonstrated appropriate knowledge/use of fall protection.

III. Safety Watch System

- A. A safety watch system will be used when repair work/servicing equipment is being conducted on a low-pitch roof that is not within 6’ of the edge where exposure to falls is infrequent (i.e., not on a predictable/regular basis) per WAC 296-880-40050.
- B. The person acting as safety watch must:
 - 1. Be a competent person as defined in WAC 296-880-095, and trained in those requirements
 - 2. Have control authority over the work as it relates to fall protection
 - 3. Have a clear, unobstructed view of the worker under their protection and be able to maintain normal voice communication
 - 4. Perform no other duties while acting as the safety watch

IV. Safety Monitor System/Warning Line System

- A. A safety monitor system may be used with a warning line system for fall protection on low-pitched surfaces per WAC 296-880.
 - 1. Warning line exemptions may be authorized per WAC 296-880-500.
- B. The fall protection work plan will address and ensure:

 <p>STATE OF WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS</p> <p>POLICY</p>	APPLICABILITY PRISON/REENTRY		
	REVISION DATE 9/15/25	PAGE NUMBER 6 of 6	NUMBER DOC 890.110
	TITLE FALL PROTECTION PROGRAM		

1. Workers outside of the warning line system (i.e., between the forward edge of the warning line and the unprotected sides or edges) are readily distinguishable from other crew members by wearing highly visible, distinctive, and uniform apparel.
 2. Workers promptly comply with fall hazard warnings from the safety monitor.
 3. A safety monitor/warning line system will not be used when weather conditions may create an additional hazard.
- C. The safety monitor must:
1. Be a competent person as defined in WAC 296-880-095
 2. Have control authority over the work as it relates to fall protection
 3. Be instantly distinguishable from members of the work crew
 4. Be positioned in relation to the workers under their protection, to have a clear, unobstructed view and be able to maintain normal voice communication
 5. Perform no other duties while acting as the safety monitor
 6. Not supervise more than 8 exposed workers at one time
 7. Warn the worker(s) when it appears that the worker(s) is unaware of a fall hazard or is acting in an unsafe manner

DEFINITIONS:

Words/terms appearing in this policy may be defined in the glossary section of the Policy Manual.

ATTACHMENTS:

None

DOC FORMS:

DOC 21-583 Fall Protection Work Plan