

Executive Summary

THE BGSU FALL PROTECTION PROGRAM

In 1970, the United States Congress established the right of workers to "safe and healthful working conditions" through the Occupational Safety and Health Act. This act created the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). In July 1994, Federal OSHA standards became effective for Ohio public employers, including Bowling Green State University and other state agencies through the Ohio Public Employee Risk Reduction Act. On October 7th of that same year, the BGSU Board of Trustees established the following policy: "It is Bowling Green State University's policy to comply with the occupational safety and health standards of the Ohio Public Employees Risk Reduction Act and all applicable Federal, State and Local rules, regulations and directives."

Although 29 CFR 1926 Subpart M applies specifically to the construction industry, it can be applied as a guideline for work in general industry and has been incorporated into the BGSU Fall Protection Program. The standards detail specific provisions for work, designed to prevent workers from falling off, into or through working levels and to protect employees from being struck by falling objects. Workplace hazards that require the use of a fall protection system include, but are not limited to: walking or working on unprotected sides and edges, leading edges, unprotected holes and roofs 6 feet or more above a lower level. The Fall Protection Program outlines safe practices and procedures for these activities.

The purpose of the University's Fall Protection Program is to ensure that affected employees can identify and control fall hazards in order to protect themselves against those hazards. This program applies to all university employees, including Firelands work under the conditions described above. The program identifies the responsibilities of all parties involved including: the Occupational Safety and Health Specialist, management (department chairpersons and directors), supervisors, and employees.

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