



# YUKON ENERGY CORPORATION Fall Protection Program





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#### FALL PROTECTION PROGRAM

#### A MESSAGE FROM YUKON ENERGY (Fall Protection)

Accidents while working at heights may be rare, but they can result in serious injury or death. However, complying with appropriate fall protection work standards, procedures and work methods will help minimize those risks and allow employees to work safely.

The Fall Protection Program is designed to complement and support other Yukon Energy safety standards.

All Yukon Energy Corporation (YEC) workers working at height must be fully informed prior to starting work; and be prepared to respond to any emergency situation.

Your continued commitment to safe work practices will help to ensure both employee safety and the efficient operation of the power system.

#### **1.0 Purpose and scope**

The purpose of the **YEC Fall Protection Program** is to effectively manage work at heights; and to protect YEC employees and contractors from the hazards that may exist in these areas.

This program applies to all YEC facilities and properties.

#### 2.0 Definitions

#### 2.1 From CSA Z259.17<sup>1</sup>

**Competent person** – a person who possesses the knowledge, training, and experience in fall protection to enable him or her to perform an assigned duty.

**Fall-arrest system (FAS)** — an assembly of components that will arrest a worker's fall when properly assembled and used together and when connected to a suitable anchorage.

Note: A fall-arrest system typically comprises components such as full-body harnesses, lanyards, deceleration devices, horizontal lifelines, vertical lifelines, anchorages and anchorage connectors.

**Fall protection system** – a collection of components to support or suspend a worker at a working point.

Note: Examples of fall protection systems include guardrail systems, travelrestraint systems, safety net systems, and fall arrest systems.

Active fall-protection system — a means of providing fall protection that requires workers to take specific actions, including wearing (and otherwise using) personal fall-protection equipment and following prescribed procedures. Examples include travel-restraint and fall-arrest systems.

**Passive fall-protection system** — a means of providing fall protection that does not require workers to wear or otherwise use fall-protection equipment or to have any special knowledge or skills related to the fall-protection system. Examples include guardrail systems and nets.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> CSA Z259.17; Selection and use of active fall-protection equipment and systems

#### 2.2 Other definitions

**Fall (travel) restraint system -** an assembly of components that will prevent workers from getting too close to an unprotected edge; when properly assembled and used together and when connected to a suitable anchorage. Use of a body belt for fall restraint at YEC is prohibited.

**Worker -** any person employed by, or contracted to YEC, who is authorized to work at a YEC facility or property.

#### **3.0** General requirements

- 3.1 Where practical, passive fall protection systems should be installed to prevent workers from entering an area where a fall hazard exists.
- 3.2 Fall protection systems must be adequate for the work performed.
- 3.3 Fall protection must be provided and installed before the employee begins work where a fall hazard exists.
- 3.4 Where permanent fall restraint and/or arrest systems are installed, workers are obligated to use them.
- 3.5 All fall protection system components must be CSA-approved; or, where applicable, designed and approved by a qualified engineer.
- 3.6 Use only approved anchor points.
- 3.7 Do not use fall protection systems to carry tools or equipment.
- 3.8 Workers should not work alone where there a fall hazard.
- 3.9 Use of body belts at YEC facilities and properties is prohibited; except,
  - 3.9.1 When the belt used as part of a fall restrict system for wood pole climbing; as described in CSA Z259.14.<sup>2</sup>
  - 3.9.2 When the belt is an integral part of a body harness; and, has no D-rings or other fastening devices that can be used to connect to other fall protection components.
- 3.10 Use body harness D-rings for the designed purpose only.E.g., sternal (front) D-rings are designed for attaching to a ladder climbing system. Do not use sternal D-ring for fall arrest or positioning

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> CSA Z259.14; Fall restrict equipment for wood pole climbing

#### 4.0 Regulatory requirements (Yukon)

From Yukon Occupational Health and Safety Regulations; Part 1 - General

#### 1.37 – Where required

Where it is not practical to protect a worker by guards, guardrails, safety nets or other devices, the worker shall be provided with and required to use the appropriate fall arrest protection

- (a) when working at a place from which a fall of
  - i. 3 m (10 ft.) or more may occur, or
  - ii. less than 3 m (10 ft.), if it involves an unusual risk of injury,
- (b) where there is a possibility of falling into a pit, shaft, machinery, water or bulk material that could shift,
- (c) when climbing or descending from utility poles, communication and transmission towers or single point suspension equipment,
- (d) when working on a swing stage or thrust out scaffold, elevating work platform or basket or suspended platform or cage,
- (e) when barring or scaling loose material from a wall in an open pit or an earth work, or
- (f) when working on a roof
  - i. having a slope of 2 vertical to 3 horizontal or steeper, or
  - ii. where the surface is slippery.

#### <u>1.38 – Fall protection program</u>

Where work is performed at a location not protected by permanent guardrails and from which a fall of 7.5 m (25 ft.) or more may occur, a written fall protection plan shall be in place and communicated to workers with adequate consideration and description of

- (a) falling hazards expected,
- (b) fall protection system or systems to be used,
- (c) the procedure to assemble, maintain, inspect, use and disassemble the fall protection system or systems, and
- (d) methods to rescue a fallen worker or one who is suspended by a personal fall protection system or safety net and is unable to effect self-rescue.

### 5.0 Training

- 5.1 All workers at YEC are required to be adequately trained in fall protection; including the selection, use, care, inspection, and proper storage of fall protection components and systems.
- 5.2 YEC will provide/coordinate fall protection training for each YEC employee who may be exposed to fall hazards.
- 5.3 Training certification records will be maintained by the H&S department.
- 5.4 Re-training will be provided when required.

5.5 Contractors may be required to provide proof of adequate fall protection training.

#### 6.0 **Responsibilities**

#### 6.1 Directors/Managers

- a) Ensure all aspects of the Fall Protection Program are implemented and followed;
- b) Ensure Supervisors, Lead Hands, and Project Managers are trained and competent to oversee tasks that involve fall hazards;
- c) By way of periodic audits, verify that work complies with the YEC Fall Protection Program, YEC fall protection practices and procedures, and Yukon OHS regulations.

#### 6.2 Supervisors, Lead Hands, & Project Managers

a) Review and understand the YEC Fall Protection Program; Ensure that:

- b) All workers under their direction are adequately trained in fall protection;
- c) All workers under their direction are familiar with the YEC Fall Protection Program, YEC fall protection practices and procedures, and Yukon OHS regulations;
- d) All workers under their direction have access to adequate fall protection equipment;
- e) All workers under their direction perform per-use inspections prior to using fall protection equipment for the task;
- f) All workers under their direction use the safety equipment necessary to safely perform the work; and
- g) A written rescue plan is developed prior to starting work where a fall hazard exists.

### 6.3 Workers

- a) Be adequately trained in fall protection;
- b) Acknowledge that they understand and will comply with the YEC Fall Protection Program, YEC fall protection practices and procedures, and Yukon OHS regulations;
- c) Ensure that they have access to adequate fall protection equipment for the task;
- d) Perform per-use inspections prior to using fall protection equipment;
- e) Use the fall protection systems installed;
- f) Use the safety equipment necessary to safely perform the work; and

g) Acknowledge that they understand the written rescue plan prior to starting work where a fall hazard exists.

#### 6.4 Health & Safety

- a) Ensure Fall Protection Program documents are current and accurate;
- b) Ensure that workers have access to current and accurate fall protection documents;
- c) Ensure all records of fall protection are maintained as specified in Appendix C – Record Retention Schedule.
- d) Provide fall protection training for YEC workers as required or practicable.

#### 7.0 Fall protection inspection and care

#### 7.1 Pre-use inspections See Appendix A – Fall protection pre-use inspection checklist (sample).

- 7.1.1 ALL personal fall protection equipment and components must be inspected by the user before each use.
- 7.1.2 Workers must inspect fall protection systems (lifelines, permanent anchors etc.) they are connecting to; when practical and safe to do so.
- 7.1.2 Pre-use inspections must be documented.
- 7.1.3 Pre-use inspections must be maintained as specified in Appendix C Record Retention Schedule.

#### 7.2 Annual inspections See Appendix B – Fall protection annual inspection checklist (sample).

- 7.2.1 ALL personal fall protection equipment must be inspected annually.
- 7.2.2 ALL fall protection systems (lifelines, ladder systems, etc.) must be inspected annually.
- 7.2.3 Annual inspections must be completed by a competent person.
- 7.2.4 Annual inspections must be documented.
- 7.2.5 Annual inspections must be maintained as specified in Appendix C –
   Record Retention Schedule.

### **7.3** Failed inspections

7.3.1 Equipment and systems that show a defect, or do not function correctly must be tagged and removed from service immediately; and, not be returned to service.

#### 7.4 Equipment that has arrested a fall

7.4.1 Equipment and systems that have arrested a fall must be tagged and removed from service immediately; and, not be returned to service.

#### 7.5 Manufacturer's operating manual

- 7.5.1 Workers performing inspections must read the original equipment manufacturers (OEM) operating manual(s).
- 7.5.2 The OEM manual may contain critical information not present on the equipment label(s); including, but not limited to:
  - inspection procedures;
  - cleaning/maintenance instructions;
  - temperature limitations;
  - list of harmful contaminants;
  - warranty; and,
  - service life.

#### 7.6 Technical bulletins (including recalls)

- 7.6.1 Workers performing inspections should keep up-to-date on OEM technical bulletins and/or recalls.
- 7.6.2 When applicable, OEM technical bulletins should be communicated to end-users.

#### 7.7 Fall protection care

- 7.7.1 Follow the manufacturer's instructions on how to care and clean the equipment.
- 7.7.2 Clean as required after use. Use a mild detergent as required.
- 7.7.3 Store in a clean, dry area, free of fumes, sunlight, corrosive materials, sharp edges, or vibration and in such a way that it does not damage the equipment.
- 7.7.4 Store in a secure location; to prevent others from using your equipment.

#### 8.0 Fall protection plan

- 8.1 All work involving fall hazards requires a written safe work plan<sup>3</sup>.
- 8.2 The fall protection plan must include; but is not limited to; the following:
  - a) fall hazard(s) expected;
  - b) fall protection system(s) to be used;
  - c) fall protection system(s) inspection requirements;
  - d) rescue plan for a fallen or suspended worker;
  - e) first aid requirements;
  - f) methods of communication;
  - g) worker acknowledgment (sign on/off).
- 8.3 Communicate the fall protection plan to all workers.

#### 9.0 Rescue plan

Each fall protection plan must include a rescue plan. The rescue plan should include; but is not limited to; the following:

- a) The name of the YEC person who will be directing the rescue operation;
- b) The responsibilities of workers in the rescue plan;
- c) Identify the rescue personnel are and how to contact them;
- d) SCC contact numbers (867 393 5355 and 867 393 5324) to assist as required;
- e) Identify any rescue equipment required; including its location; and
- f) Communication method(s) to be used to maintain communications with the rescue personal while affecting a rescue.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> JSA/Tailboard; or other documentation method

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# Appendix A – Fall protection pre-use inspection checklist (sample).

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Appendix B - Fall protection annual inspection checklist (sample).

Records Required	<b>Record Location</b>	<b>Responsible Party</b>	Record Retention
Training certification	H&S and HR Files	Health & Safety	10 years
Pre-use inspection reports	YEC Records Management System	Dept. Supervisor, Leadhand, Manager, or Director.	10 years
Annual inspection reports	YEC Records Management System	Health & Safety	10 years

Appendix C – Record Retention Schedule