



## Fall Protection Program Summary

On December 17<sup>th</sup> (2007), a written Fall Protection Program was issued all Kent State University (KSU) facilities. The goal of this program was to further ensure employee safety performing “High Work.” Special attention was given to the protection of employees working on KSU roofs. To this end, KSU management is committed to installing fixed or portable barriers on roofs. Given the number of roofs covered by this program and the resulting amount of time it will take to install fixed or portable barriers on all KSU roofs, the program has been designed to provide OSHA approved alternative means of employee protection through the use of controlled access zones, warning lines and safety monitors.

As specified in the OSHA Fall Protection standard (29 CFR Part 1926.500(a)(1)), this program does NOT apply when KSU employees are making an inspection, investigation or assessment of workplace conditions prior to the start of high work or after high work has been completed, unless the employee or supervisor deems it necessary. OSHA found, during the rulemaking process, that the short duration of hazard exposure was part of the basis for creating the exception for the inspection-only activity. Another basis for the exception was the concept that, during inspections before and after the work is done, there is no on-going work to divert the inspector's attention from the fall hazard.

Key elements of the Fall Protection Program of general interest to KSU employees are:

- “High Work” is defined as work performed within 50 feet of an edge or opening (i.e., roof edge, unprotected opening, skylight or other surface incapable of holding a persons body weight) that is 6 feet or more above an adjacent lower level. This program applies only to this kind of work.
- Roof accesses are to be secured and signage indicating “Access by Authorized Personnel Only” should be posted on a door or hatch leading to the roof access.
- “High Work” can only be done if one of the following is true:
  - Fixed or portable barricades are erected around the work area or between the work area and the edge or opening;
  - Fixed or temporary warning lines are installed around the work area or between the work area and the edge or opening and no less than 15 feet from the edge or opening; or
  - A “High Work Permit” is prepared by your supervisor or zone supervisor and a safety monitor is trained and assigned to accompany you during the project. Safety monitors are individuals assigned to do nothing else but monitor the work of employees engaged in “High Work” so as to ensure their safety.
- “High Work” should only be done on roofs during night-time hours if adequate fixed or portable lighting is provided.