As a Home Builder, we do not self-perform any work. This section is a resource guide only and is not intended to put any requirements on the company. All subcontractors, trade partners, suppliers and vendors are required to develop, implement and follow their own safety program, including providing the proper competent person(s) for the specific task they are responsible for.

**Purpose**

The purpose of the fall protection program is to:

- Ensure all construction areas are free from uncontrolled fall hazards
- All exposed employees are properly trained in fall prevention and protection
- Fall prevention systems are inspected and monitored to ensure effectiveness

**Policy**

It is the policy of the company to take all practical measures possible to prevent employees from being injured by falls. We will take necessary steps to eliminate, prevent, and control fall hazards. We will comply fully with the OSHA Fall Protection standard (CFR 1926, Subpart M, Fall Protection). The first priority is given to the elimination of fall hazards. If a fall hazard cannot be eliminated, effective fall protection will be planned, implemented, and monitored to control the risks of injury due to falling.

All employees exposed to potential falls from heights will be trained to minimize the exposures. Fall protection equipment will be provided and its use required by all employees. Superintendents will be responsible for the implementation of this fall protection program for their jobsite.

**Hazard Identification**

The superintendent on each jobsite will be responsible for identifying fall hazards on their jobsite. The superintendent will evaluate each situation or work procedure where employees may be exposed to a fall of 6 feet or more. The superintendent will be responsible for developing a plan to eliminate the exposures, if possible, or to select the appropriate fall protection systems and/or equipment.

**Hazard Control**

**Engineering Controls**

- Personal Fall Protection
- Guard Rail Systems
- Positioning Devices
- Warning Line Systems
- Floor Opening Covers

**Administrative Controls**

- Controlled access zones
- Employee training
- Audits
- Inspections
Supervision

Signs

Fall Protection Required
The following are examples of situations were fall protection would be needed. This listing is by no means complete, and there are many other situations where a fall of 6 feet or more is possible. It should be noted that ladders and scaffolding are not included in this list because they are covered by other OSHA standards and other requirements of our safety program.

Wall Openings
Each employee working on, at, above, or near wall openings (including those with chutes attached) where the outside bottom edge of the wall opening is 6 feet (1.8 meters) or more above lower levels and the inside bottom edge of the wall opening is less than 39 inches (1.0 meter) above the walking/working surface must be protected from falling by the use of a guardrail system, a safety net system, or a personal fall arrest system.

Holes
Personal fall arrest systems, covers, or guardrail systems shall be erected around holes (including skylights) that are more than 6 feet (1.8 meters) above lower levels.

Leading Edges
Each employee who is constructing a leading edge 6 feet (1.8 meters) or more above lower levels shall be protected by guardrail systems, safety net systems, or personal fall arrest systems.

Excavations
Each employee at the edge of an excavation 6 feet (1.8 meters) or more deep shall be protected from falling by guardrail systems, fences, barricades, or covers. Where walkways are provided to permit employees to cross over excavations, guardrails are required on the walkway if it is 6 feet (1.8 meters) or more above the excavation.

Formwork and Reinforcing Steel
For employees, while moving vertically and/or horizontally on the vertical face of rebar assemblies built in place; fall protection is not required when employees are moving. OSHA considers the multiple hand holds and footholds on rebar assemblies as providing similar protection as that provided by a fixed ladder, consequently, no fall protection is necessary while moving point to point for heights below 24 feet (7.3 meters). An employee must be provided with fall protection when climbing or otherwise moving at a height more than 24 feet (7.3 meters), the same as for fixed ladders.

Hoist Areas
Each employee in a hoist area shall be protected from falling 6 feet (1.8 meters) or more by guardrail systems or personal fall arrest systems. If guardrail systems (or chain gate or guardrail) or portions thereof must be removed to facilitate hoisting operations, as during of materials, and a worker must lean through the access opening or out over the edge of the access opening to receive or guide equipment and materials, that employee must be protected by a personal fall arrest system.

Overhand Bricklaying and Related Work
Each employee performing overhand bricklaying and related work 6 feet (1.8 meters) or more above lower levels shall be protected by guardrail systems, safety net systems, or personal fall arrest systems, or shall work in
a controlled access zone. All employees reaching more than 10 inches (25 cm) below the level of a walking/working surface on which they are working shall be protected by a guardrail system, safety net system, or personal fall arrest system.

**Precast Concrete Erection and Residential Construction**
Each employee who is 6 feet (1.8 meters) or more above lower levels while erecting precast concrete members and related operations such as grouting of precast concrete members and each employee engaged in residential construction, shall be protected by guardrail systems, safety net systems, or personal fall arrest systems.

**Ramps, Runways, and Other Walkways**
Each employee using ramps, runways, and other walkways shall be protected from falling 6 feet (1.8 meters) or more by guardrail systems.

**Low-slope Roofs**
Each employee engaged in roofing activities on low-slope roofs with unprotected sides and edges 6 feet (1.8 meters) or more above lower levels shall be protected from falling by guardrail systems, safety net systems, personal fall arrest systems or a combination of a warning line system and guardrail system, warning line system and safety net system, warning line system and personal fall arrest system, or warning line system and safety monitoring system. On roofs 50 feet (15.24 meters) or less in width, the use of a safety monitoring system without a warning line system is permitted.

**Steep Roofs**
Each employee on a steep roof with unprotected sides and edges 6 feet (1.8 meters) or more above lower levels shall be protected by guardrail systems with toe boards, safety net systems, or personal fall arrest systems.

**Fall Protection Systems**
When there is a potential fall of 6 feet or more, we will utilize one or more of the following means of providing protection:

**Guardrail Systems**
Guardrail systems must meet the following criteria. Toprails and midrails of guardrail systems must be at least one-quarter inch (0.6 centimeters) nominal diameter or thickness to prevent cuts and lacerations. If wire rope is used for toprails, it must be flagged at not more 6 feet intervals (1.8 meters) with high-visibility material. Steel and plastic banding cannot be used as toprails or midrails. Manila, plastic, or synthetic rope used for toprails or midrails must be inspected as frequently as necessary to ensure strength and stability.

The top edge height of toprails, or (equivalent) guardrails must be 42 inches (1.1 meters) plus or minus 3 inches (8 centimeters), above the walking/working level. When workers are using stilts, the top edge height of the top rail, or equivalent member, must be increased an amount equal to the height of the stilts.

Screens, midrails, mesh, intermediate vertical members, or equivalent intermediate structural members must be installed between the top edge of the guardrail system and the walking/working surface when there are no walls or parapet walls at least 21 inches (53 centimeters) high. When midrails are used, they must be installed a to a height midway between the top edge of the guardrail system and the walking/working level.

When screens and mesh are used, they must extend from the top rail to the walking/working level and along the entire opening between top rail supports. Intermediate members, such as balusters, when used between posts,
shall not be more than 19 inches (48 centimeters) apart.

Other structural members, such as additional midrails and architectural panels, shall be installed so that there are no openings in the guardrail system more than 19 inches (48 centimeters).

The guardrail system must be capable of withstanding a force of at least 200 pounds (890 newtons) applied within 2 inches of the top edge in any outward or downward direction. When the 200-pound (890 newtons) test is applied in a downward direction, the top edge of the guardrail must not deflect to a height less than 39 inches (1 meter) above the walking/working level.

Midrails, screens, mesh, intermediate vertical members, solid panels, and equivalent structural members shall be capable of withstanding a force of at least 150 pounds (667 newtons) applied in any downward or outward direction at any point along the midrail or other member.

Guardrail systems shall be surfaced to protect workers from punctures or lacerations and to prevent clothing from snagging.

The ends of top rails and midrails must not overhang terminal posts, except where such overhang does not constitute a projection hazard.

When guardrail systems are used at hoisting areas, a chain, gate or removable guardrail section must be placed across the access opening between guardrail sections when hoisting operations are not taking place.

At holes, guardrail systems must be set up on all unprotected sides or edges. When holes are used for the passage of materials, the hole shall have not more than two sides with removable guardrail sections. When the hole is not in use, it must be covered or provided with guardrails along all unprotected sides or edges.

If guardrail systems are used around holes that are used as access points (such as ladderways), gates must be used or the point of access must be offset to prevent accidental walking into the hole.

If guardrails are used at unprotected sides or edges of ramps and runways, they must be erected on each unprotected side or edge.

**Personal Fall Arrest Systems**

These consist of an anchorage, connectors, and a body belt or body harness and may include a deceleration device, lifeline, or suitable combinations. If a personal fall arrest system is used for fall protection, it must do the following:

- Limit maximum arresting force on an employee to 1,800 pounds (8 kilonewtons) when used with a body harness
- Be rigged so that an employee can neither free fall more than 6 feet (1.8 meters) nor contact any lower level
- Bring an employee to a complete stop and limit maximum deceleration distance an employee travels to 3.5 feet (1.07 meters)
- Have sufficient strength to withstand twice the potential impact energy of an employee free falling a distance of 6 feet (1.8 meters) or the free fall distance permitted by the system, whichever is less.
The use of body belts for fall arrest is prohibited and a full body harness is required.

Personal fall arrest systems must be inspected prior to each use for wear damage, and other deterioration. Defective components must be removed from service.

**Positioning Device Systems**

Body harness systems are to be set up so that a worker can free fall no farther than 2 feet (0.6 meters). They shall be secured to an anchorage capable of supporting a least twice the potential impact load of an employee's fall or 3,000 pounds (13.3 kilonewtons), whichever is greater.

**Safety Net Systems**

Safety nets must be installed as close as practicable under the walking/working surface on which employees are working and never more than 30 feet (9.1 meters) below such levels. Defective nets shall not be used. Safety nets shall be inspected at least once a week for wear, damage, and other deterioration. Safety nets shall be installed with sufficient clearance underneath to prevent contact with the surface or structure below.

Items that have fallen into safety nets including, but not restricted to, materials, scrap, equipment, and tools must be removed as soon as possible and at least before the next work shift.

**Warning Line Systems**

Warning line systems consist of ropes, wires, or chains, and supporting stanchions and are set up as follows:

- Flagged at not more than 6-foot (1.8 meters) intervals with high-visibility material
- Rigged and supported so that the lowest point (including sag) is no less than 34 inches (0.9 meters) from the walking/working surface and its highest point is no more than 39 inches (1 meter) from the walking/working surface
- Stanchions, after being rigged with warning lines, shall be capable of resisting, without tipping over, a force of at least 16 pounds applied horizontally against the stanchion, 30 inches (0.8 meters) above the walking/working surface, perpendicular to the warning line and in the direction of the floor, roof, or platform edge
- The rope, wire, or chain shall have a minimum tensile strength of 500 pounds and after being attached to the stanchions, must support without breaking the load applied to the stanchions as prescribed above
- Shall be attached to each stanchion in such a way that pulling on one section of the line between stanchions will not result in slack being taken up in the adjacent section before the stanchion tips over.

Warning lines shall be erected around all sides of roof work areas. When mechanical equipment is being used, the warning line shall be erected not less than 6 feet (1.8 meters) from the roof edge parallel to the direction of mechanical equipment operation, and not less than 10 feet (3 meters) from the roof edge perpendicular to the direction of mechanical equipment operation.

When mechanical equipment is not being used, the warning line must be erected not less than 6 feet (1.8 meters) from the roof edge.

Workers outside of the warning line system must be protected by PFAS.
Covers
Covers located in roadways and vehicular aisles must be able to support at least twice the maximum axle load of the largest vehicle to which the cover might be subjected. All other covers must be able to support at least twice the weight of employees, equipment, and materials that may be imposed on the cover at any one time. To prevent accidental displacement resulting from wind, equipment, or workers activities, all covers must be secured. All covers shall be color-coded or bear the markings "HOLE" or "COVER."

Protection From Falling Objects
When guardrail systems are used to prevent materials from falling from one level to another, any openings must be small enough to prevent passage of potential falling objects. No materials or equipment except masonry and mortar shall be stored within 4 feet (1.2 meters) of working edges. Excess mortar, broken or scattered masonry units, and all other materials and debris shall be kept clear of the working area by removal at regular intervals.

During roofing work, materials and equipment shall not be stored within 6 feet (1.8 meters) of a roof edge unless guardrails are erected at the edge, and materials piled, grouped, or stacked near a roof edge must be stable and self-supporting.

Training
Employees must be trained in Fall Protection. The training will be documented on the Employee Training Record Form found in this program. Employees will be trained in the following areas:

(a) The nature of fall hazards in the work area
(b) The correct procedures for erecting, maintaining, disassembling, and inspecting fall protection systems
(c) The use and operation of controlled access zones and guardrail, personal fall arrest, safety net, warning line, and safety monitoring systems
(d) The role of each employee in the safety monitoring system when the system is in use
(e) The limitations on the use of mechanical equipment during the performance of roofing work on low-sloped roofs
(f) The correct procedures for equipment and materials handling and storage and the erection of overhead protection
(g) Employees role in fall protection plans