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I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this program is to prevent accidents, injuries and near miss incidents involving falling objects.

II. SCOPE

This program covers all Gallant Builders (Gallant) employees and subcontractors who perform work operations on Gallant projects.

III. PROTECTION FROM FALLING OBJECTS

OVERHEAD WORK
Over–Under work operations shall be eliminated as much as possible. If over-under work must take place the operation(s) must be evaluated and the risks identified. Over-under work requires a coordinated safety plan, Job Hazard Analysis and safety meeting between Gallant and the subcontractor(s).

BARRICADES
When employees are required to work in the near vicinity of others working with materials, tools, or equipment at elevated levels, Barricades around the immediate impact zone of the overhead work shall be erected to prohibit employees from entering the impact zone.

All barricades shall be erected between 39 inches to 42 inches high and be neat, uniform, and level. Each barricade shall have tag or sign affixed in a conspicuous location on each side.

The following information is required on the barricade tag/sign:

- The date the barricade was erected.
- The reason for the barricade.
- The name of the Supervisor responsible for the barricaded area and how they can be reached (radio channel, phone number, etc.).

TOOL LANYARDS
Employees performing work at elevated levels shall keep tools, materials, and equipment away from the edge to keep potential objects from falling over the side. Tool lanyards shall be used to keep them from falling to the lower level.

GUARDRAILS
When guardrail systems are used to prevent materials from falling from one level to another, any opening shall be small enough to prevent passage of potential falling objects.

TOE BOARDS
When toe boards are used as protection from falling objects, they shall be erected along the edges of the overhead walking or working surface for a distance sufficient to protect persons working below.

Toe boards shall be capable of withstanding a force of at least 50 pounds applied in a downward or outward direction at any point along the toe board.

Toe boards shall be a minimum of three and one half inches tall from their top edge to the level of the walking/working surface, have no more than 0.25 inches clearance above the walking/working surface, and be solid or have openings no larger than one inch in size.

Where tools, equipment, or materials are piled higher than the top edge of a toe board, paneling or screening shall be erected from the walking/working surface or toe board to the top of a guardrail system's top rail or midrail, for a distance sufficient to protect persons below.

IV. MASONRY OPERATIONS

No materials or equipment, except masonry or mortar shall be stored within four feet of working edges. Excess mortar, broken or scattered masonry, and all other materials and debris shall be kept clear of the working area by removal at regular intervals.

V. ROOFING OPERATIONS

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

VI. CANOPIES

When canopies are used as protection from falling objects, they shall be constructed strong enough to prevent collapse and to prevent penetration by any objects that fall onto them.

VII. MANAGING THE RISK

Work area risk assessments shall include looking at this particular risk, especially as struck by injuries are common and are likely to occur almost anywhere.

VIII. FALLING OBJECTS

Ensure items stored above ground level (e.g. on top of C-containers) are stable and will not fall easily if disturbed. Store heavier items on or near the ground and lighter items higher up.

Give careful consideration to methods of stacking, handling and movement of materials to prevent articles falling.

Make sure tall self-standing objects (e.g. gas cylinders) or objects leaning against walls are secured from accidental displacement.

IX. MOVING OBJECTS

Forklift and other material handling equipment shall be operated by trained operators on designated routes away from other workers where possible. The operator shall have good visibility at all times. If an operator can see around the load, a qualified spotter shall be used to provide guidance.

Risk assessments should consider what other work area specific hazards may be present.

X. SELECTING CONTROL MEASURES - FALL PREVENTION

Fall prevention must be considered and, so far as is reasonably practicable, implemented before considering options for arresting the fall of objects. Control measures that can assist in protecting persons from falling objects are suggested below.

XI. SECURING A LOAD

To prevent objects from falling freely from one level to another when they are being stored a secure physical barrier shall be provided.

Examples of additional control measures include:

- stacking items so they cannot slide, fall or collapse when they are stored above ground level
- using netting or restraining bars to keep items in place when they are stored above ground level so they cannot fall easily if they are disturbed
- following the safe load limit of the storage system when storing items
- ensuring shelving systems, barriers and other fittings are properly secured and well maintained
- inspecting pallets each time before use to make sure they are in a safe condition
- loading pallets correctly to ensure load stability. Using banding, shrink or stretch wrap can help with this.

XII. MOVING A LOAD

When moving a load, a safe means of raising and lowering materials and debris shall be provided.

Examples of additional control measures include:

- handling equipment such as a forklift that is suitable for the job is properly inspected, maintained and operated by competent and/or qualified persons as required
- following the safe working load limits and taking into account all relevant factors such as stability of ground conditions, use of outriggers or stabilisers, slewing rate and wind conditions (if applicable)
- making sure the load is balanced and secure when the load is lifted
- enclosing areas that loads are being lifted over, and
- establishing ‘isolation’ or ‘no-go’ zones with barriers and trained workers to restrict access.

XIII. WORKING AT A HEIGHT

Examples of controls for working at heights include:

- keeping large equipment at ground level
- good housekeeping, for example keeping the work area tidy and ensuring materials, debris, tools and equipment that are not being used are out of the way
- if placing an item on a scaffold or platform, providing a secure physical barrier at the edge of the elevated area, such as toe boards or infill panels that form part of a guardrail system
- barricade the area below to warn people of the work above
- tethering or otherwise securing tools and materials to prevent them falling on people below
- keeping tools or other materials away from edges and off of railings or sills
- using trash chutes when placing debris into a dumpster below a work area.

XIV. DEMOLITION WORK

Subcontractors involved in demolition work shall provide adequate protection to ensure objects do not fall onto or hit workers or the general public in adjoining areas such as a public footpath, road, and the yard of a dwelling or other buildings.

XV. SELECTING CONTROL MEASURES - FALL ARREST

When considering control measures to contain or catch falling objects, identify the types of objects that could fall, as well as the fall gradient and distance, to ensure that any protective equipment or structures are strong enough to withstand the impact forces of the falling object.

Examples of these control measures include:

- erecting a covered pedestrian walkway
- erecting a catch platform with vertical sheeting or perimeter screening, and
- providing overhead protection on mobile equipment

XVI. MAINTAINING CONTROL MEASURES

Each Subcontractor shall ensure control measures are:

- suitable for the nature and duration of the work
- installed and used correctly, and
- maintained in good working order.

XVII. REVIEWING CONTROL MEASURES

Controlling the safety, health and environmental risks in the workplace is an ongoing process that needs to take into account changes in the workplace.

Subcontractors are responsible for reviewing the procedures and risk control measures regularly to ensure they are still effective.