



HSAC – RP – 2011 -1 Working at Heights

Background

Falls from aircraft, working surfaces, maintenance stands, while accessing aircraft or undertaking any activity which requires working at or moving through height, are potential sources of injuries and fatalities. Some operations, which expose personnel to falls from heights, include:

- Aircraft pre-flight inspection
- cleaning and painting
- Maintenance, inspections, aircraft servicing
- Aircraft washing operations

In a 2004 article published in The American Journal of Forensic Medicine and Pathology it stated “severe head injuries predominantly occurred in falls from heights below 30 feet (84%) and above 75feet (90%)”.

Recommended Practices

1. The following guidelines cover areas which may be considered when developing a pro- active working at height program

- Plan your work.
- Select equipment that will aid working safely.
- Consider the work area for access and hazards.
- Do the weather conditions contribute to additional risk?
- Is the person carrying out work at height properly supervised and trained?
- If the person at work is undergoing training is he/she adequately supervised?
- Has a risk assessment been done on the activity planned? Can the task be carried out on the ground?

- Can steps be taken to reduce the hazard of a fall i.e. can a work platform be used instead of having to work on the aircraft itself?
- Only remain at height long enough to perform the task required.
- Minimize the height above ground level that you are working at.
- Helmets should be made available to individuals while working at height.
- Is it possible to reduce the hazards should a fall occur i.e. removable objects, debris on the ground, suitable supervision or assistance?

PETZL Helmets - <http://www.petzl.com/en/outdoor/mountaineering-and-climbing-helmets/meteor-iii>

How to choose a helmet <http://www.rei.com/expertadvice/articles/climbing+helmet.html>

Rock Helmets.com http://www.rockhelmets.com/alpinismo_climb.html