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Working at Heights Policy Changes Supervisor Talking Points 2013

As part of the fatality prevention process small teams of subject matter experts from across FCX are being formed to review the global significant risks. The purpose is to evaluate existing guidelines and policies (or create new ones where one does not already exist) to update as needed as well as identify areas of potential concern with existing practices.

These talking points will serve as a supplement to the training previously received to inform you of any changes to current practice. Issues or concerns brought up by SMEs will also be listed so that you can review your procedures and ensure proper practices are being followed.

Changes to Working at Heights

- This was previously the Fall Protection Guideline but is now a FCX Working at Heights Policy we changed the title because Working Heights more appropriately describes the risk; fall protection is a control for the risk
- Clarification of requirements for anchor points and other fall protection devices to be designed and constructed under direction of a qualified person
- Added requirement for monthly documented inspection of fall arrest equipment this is a good practices that was not previously included in the document
- An exemption process was added so that when any part of the policy can't be followed an exemption must reviewed by an engineer or other qualified individual and then must be approved by area management

Areas of Potential Concern with Working at Heights

During the review potential gaps in the application of working at heights were identified. Each employee should ensure the following (don't assume it is being done – verify it):

- Anchor points and other fall protection devices are designed, installed and inspected under direction of a qualified person
- Fall arrest equipment is inspected prior to every use according to manufacturer's recommendations
- Rescue of a person in a fall arrest system can be done within 6 minutes (by means of man lift or other) or suspension straps are provided
- Deceleration and self-retracting systems are not used for fall restraint systems (only fall arrest)
- Tie-off points are not below the feet
- Falls have been calculated with a safety factor and that appropriate lanyards are utilized to prevent hitting objects

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A Significant Risk Task with Critical Controls has also been issued with this Policy revision and should be utilized for pre-task reviews, new employee training and refresher.