



Advisory # 2021-A-059

Subject– Toronto Pearson - Working from Heights Awareness & Prevention

From: Governance, Corporate Safety & Security

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Health & Safety is a critical component of everything we do at Toronto Pearson. It is everyone’s responsibility to be aware and identify workplace hazards and remove or report them once identified.

Unfortunately, there have been three serious incidents in the last week that involved members of the Toronto Pearson community falling while working from heights and sustaining injuries. The incidents occurred while climbing on vehicles, external ladders on ground service equipment and walking on the external walkway of a passenger boarding bridge. While the root cause of these incidents may be different, it is important that everyone is aware and follow general precautions, like those listed below, while climbing or working from heights to help prevent these incidents from occurring. We wish our injured airport colleagues a speedy recovery.

General Precautions:

- Be mindful of weather conditions i.e., ice, wet surface
- Practice good housekeeping – regardless of type of surface, ensure they are clean and dry
- Wear proper slip-resistant safety footwear to protect feet and toes from injuries and to prevent slipping
- Keep footwear free of mud, grease or any material that could increase the chance of slipping

- Hold handrails while walking or climbing
- Focus on the job task – take the time, and attention to maintain awareness and avoid distractions
- Review and follow your employer’s safety procedures for preventing falls from heights
- Many procedures require that when working from heights, working 3 metres or more above the ground or floor, you must use a Fall Arrest or Fall Restraint System with a lanyard tied off to the structure in accordance with the CSA Z259.1 standard for safety belts and lanyards and standard Z259.10 for full body harness

It is everyone’s responsibility to be mindful of workplace hazards. If you see an unsafe condition or act, report this to your employer immediately. You should also report urgent non-emergency situations such as spills, leaks, icy floors to Airport Operations at 416-776-3055. Safety concerns can also be submitted to the GTAA at safety@gtaa.com or directly to GTAAs electronic reporting form [Health & Safety Report](#) .