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SUBJ/COMNAVSAFECEN AFLOAT SAFETY ADVISORY 9-11 - AFLOAT FALL/PROTECTION//

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GENTEXT/REMARKS/1. GENERALLY, SHIPBOARD PERSONNEL ONLY THINK OF DONNING FALL PROTECTION EQUIPMENT WHEN THEY ARE GOING ALOFT OR OVER THE SIDE. HOWEVER, THERE HAS BEEN A NEED FOR FALL PROTECTION OUTSIDE THESE TWO ARENAS. THIS MESSAGE SETS POLICY FOR MINIMUM FALL PROTECTION PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS UNTIL OPNAVINST 5100.19E IS REVISED.

2. ALL FORCES AFLOAT SHALL USE THE FOLLOWING AS A GUIDELINE FOR WHEN TO USE FALL PROTECTION. FALL PROTECTION IS REQUIRED FOR ALL PERSONNEL ON NAVY SHIPS AND SUBMARINES EXPOSED TO FALL HAZARDS IN THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONS: ON ANY ELEVATED WALKING, WORKING SURFACE WITH UNPROTECTED SIDES, EDGES, OR OPENINGS FROM WHICH A POSSIBILITY OF FALLING FIVE FEET OR MORE EXISTS; OR THE POTENTIAL TO FALL OVER THE SIDE EXISTS TO INCLUDE WORK NEAR THE DECK EDGE.

3. OTHER EXAMPLES OF WHEN FALL PROTECTION WOULD BE REQUIRED INCLUDE, BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO: ANY MAST, KINGPOST, ACCESS TRUNKS, ESCAPE TRUNKS, ELEVATOR TRUNKS, DUMBWAITER TRUNKS, MAIN BALLAST TANKS, FUEL TANKS, VERTICAL PALLET AND PACKAGE CONVEYOR TRUNKS, AND ANYWHERE EXTERIOR TO THE LIFELINE SYSTEM. SOMETIMES FALL PROTECTION CAN BE SOMETHING AS SMALL AS NONSKID STRIPS OUTSIDE A DOOR OR A SLIP-RESISTANT COATING ON A LADDER RUNG.

4. REMEMBER, GRAVITY DOESN'T DISCRIMINATE BY RATE OR RANK, OR BETWEEN THE SURFACE AND SUBSURFACE COMMUNITIES. PROPER TRAINING IN THE USE AND WEAR OF FALL-PROTECTION EQUIPMENT IS A NECESSARY PART OF A SUCCESSFUL FALL-PROTECTION PROGRAM. AT A MINIMUM, ALL PERSONNEL USING FALL PROTECTION SHOULD BE QUALIFIED VIA THE SHIP'S JQR. TODAY'S DECK-PLATE SAILORS FUNCTION IN A HIGH OP-TEMPO, RESOURCE CONSTRAINED, AND DEMANDING ENVIRONMENT. IT SHOULD SURPRISE NO ONE THAT THESE CONDITIONS WILL TEMPT SOME TO TAKE SHORTCUTS TO "GET THE JOB DONE." IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT LEADERS AT ALL LEVELS UNDERSTAND THIS POTENTIAL RISK, TRAIN INTRUSIVELY, AND DEMAND PROCEDURAL COMPLIANCE 24/7 FROM THEIR SAILORS AND SHIPMATES. STANDARDS ARE ONLY EFFECTIVE IF THEY ARE CHECKED AND ENFORCED. INSTRUCTIONS AND PROCEDURES ARE WRITTEN IN BLOOD. ONCE THE STANDARDS ARE ENFORCED AND THE COMMAND'S TONE IS SET, PROCEDURAL COMPLIANCE WILL BECOME COMMONPLACE. THIS METHOD WILL ENSURE WE PROTECT OUR MOST VITAL ASSETS, OUR SAILORS, FROM FALL HAZARDS.//

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