

Working at Heights – Controlled Access Zone

When you are working in elevated areas such as rooftops, unprotected platforms, and around pits and tanks, one option for fall prevention is to establish a **Controlled Access Zone (CAZ)**. A CAZ is a system used to protect employees not wearing fall arrest or fall restraint equipment by warning them when they are within 6 feet of a potential fall hazard. This system includes stanchions and control lines with high visibility markers.

WARNING: The CAZ requires vigilance, and a dedicated designated “safety monitor”. It is therefore not appropriate to all situations.

- Make sure the Controlled Access Zone (CAZ) is defined by a control line that restricts access, and make sure signs are clearly posted to warn unauthorized employees to stay out of the Controlled Access Zone.
- When control lines are used, make sure they are positioned not less than 6 feet nor more than 25 feet from the unprotected or leading edge.
- Expand the CAZ during adverse conditions (e.g., rain, wind, slippery roof), or when working at an additional elevation within the "Safe Zone" (e.g., on a step ladder).
- Make sure control lines consist of ropes, wires, or equivalent materials that have a minimum breaking strength of 200 pounds (e.g., ¼" manila rope).
- Clearly mark or flag control lines at not more than 6-foot intervals with high-visibility materials.
- Make sure each control line is rigged and supported in such a way that its lowest point (including sag) is not less than 39 inches from the working surface and its highest point is not more than 45 inches.
- Anyone working outside the “SAFE ZONE” and inside the CAZ (within 6 feet of the leading edge or fall hazard), must wear fall restraint or fall arrest equipment.
- Designate a person whose sole responsibility it is to monitor the safety of other employees in the work area and who will:
 - Warn employees when it appears that they are unaware of a fall hazard or are acting in an unsafe manner;
 - Stay within visual sighting distance of employees or in direct communication with the employees being monitored;
- All employees working in an area with a Controlled Access Zone will promptly comply with fall hazard warnings from the safety monitor.