



# Fall Protection – Controlled Access

**Fall hazards are present for crew and performers when they work around the open edge, elevated platforms, and other unprotected elevated surfaces. There are times when the use of a conventional fall protection system will not work in these areas.**



As an example, the open edge of the stage is often treated as a controlled access area during construction-like activities including set construction, when the orchestra pit is lowered for equipment and material load in / load out tasks and during set deconstruction/strikes. When a fall hazard exists and conventional fall protection will not work, the area is deemed a controlled access area. A controlled access area requires the development of a Fall Protection Plan and monitoring of the area by a competent safety monitor skilled in fall hazard recognition.

## Controlled Access Requirements

1. Develop a written Fall Protection Plan for each area that will require controlled access.
2. Train personnel in the requirements of the Fall Protection Plan and controlled access requirements prior to allowing them to construct a controlled access area or work in or around a controlled access area.
3. Delineate the controlled access zone with one or more control lines or by other means that restrict access.
4. Post signs to warn unauthorized personnel to stay out of the controlled access zone.
5. Install the access control lines not less than 6 feet nor more than 25 feet from the unprotected or leading edge.
6. Run the access control line along the entire length of the unprotected or leading edge and parallel with that edge.
7. Securely anchor both ends of each access control line to a standard railing or wall.
8. Attach highly visible flags, or other material, to the access control lines at 6-foot intervals or less.
9. Support each access control line to ensure at its lowest point (including sag) it is not less than 39 inches from the working level and its highest point is not more than 45 inches from the working level.
10. Ensure the access control lines and supporting stanchions are strong enough to sustain the stress of not less than 200 pounds.
11. Assign a safety monitor who is skilled in fall hazard recognition to monitor the work within or near the controlled access area.
12. Ensure the safety monitor is present whenever personnel are working within or near the controlled access area.
13. Ensure the safety monitor has no other duties than monitoring personnel in and around the controlled access area.
14. Instruct all personnel to comply with all hazard warnings from the safety monitor.

**Duties of the Safety Monitor**

1. Warn personnel when it appears they are unaware of a fall hazard or are acting in an unsafe manner.
2. Stay within visual sighting distance of personnel being monitored.
3. Maintain communication with the personnel being monitored.
4. Never engage in behaviors that take your attention away from the monitoring task – refrain from unnecessary conversations – never use your mobile phone while on monitoring duty – never engage in other duties.
5. Restrict access to the area being monitored to personnel covered by the Fall Protection Plan.
6. Eject personnel from the area if they fail to comply with your fall hazard warnings.