



Safety Bulletin EM 385-1-1

Mobile District Safety and Occupational Health Office

Bulletin 38-09

FALL PROTECTION WORKING OVER OR NEAR WATER

The 15 September 2008 Safety Manual (yellow book) is now in effect for most new contracts and government operations. Please note the changes for fall protection working over or near water as stated below.

21.N WORKING OVER OR NEAR WATER (piers, wharves, quay walls, barges, aerial lifts, crane-supported work platforms, etc). PFDs are required for all work over or near water unless detailed below. > **All USACE and contractor workers, to include divers, shall comply with the requirements below.**

21.N.01 When continuous fall protection is used without exception to prevent workers from falling into the water, the employer has effectively removed the drowning hazard and PFDs are not required. > **When using safety nets as fall protection, USCG approved PFDs are usually required, unless rationale is provided in AHA.**

21.N.02 When working over or near water and the distance from walking/working surface to the water's surface is 25 ft (7.6 m) or more, workers shall be protected from falling by the use of a fall protection system and PFDs are not required.

21.N.03 When working over or near water where the distance from the walking/working surface to the water's surface is less than 25 ft (7.6 m) **and** the water depth is less than 10 ft (3.05 m), or hazards from currents, intakes, machinery or barges, etc., are present, fall protection shall be required and PFDs are not required.

21.N.04 When working over water, PFD, lifesaving equipment and safety skiffs meeting the requirements of this EM shall be used.

