



2017

USAF OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY FALL PREVENTION FOCUS





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Executive Summary

Each year the U.S. Air Force promotes an extensive Fall Prevention Focus in an effort to remind and educate all Airmen on fall prevention and risks associated with working at heights. The goal is to reduce the number of fall-related mishaps both on and off-duty. Building on past successes, the 2017 Fall Prevention Focus was expanded to include falls on the same level and ladder safety.

This year's AF Fall Prevention Focus was held 8-19 May, 2017, in conjunction with Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) National Safety Stand-Down week. The Focus encompassed the entire Air Force family, to include Active Duty, Air National Guard, Air Force Reserve, civilians, contractors, family members and was designed to be very simple. Airmen were encouraged to take a brief break during their work day to discuss fall prevention measures, equipment and policies with their supervisors. Air Force Safety Center (AFSEC) Occupational Safety also partnered with the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), further highlighting the Air Force fall prevention efforts.

The Focus was voluntary and units were encouraged to participate and report their various tactics and materials utilized through an online survey. Focus details and resources, along with guidance were provided through multiple media resources. Overall, the Focus was well-received and Airmen voiced their appreciation for the resources offered by AFSEC Occupational Safety. This document details a few of the efforts from our Air Force wings/units.

This year's Focus reached over 2 million people using a variety of media approaches, to include articles, videos, pamphlets, emails, websites, blogs and commercials on the Armed Forces Network. This all-out approach targeted not only military members, but the entire DoD, as well as family members and the civilian community. In addition, during the focus period the Air Force Occupational Safety SharePoint Site had over 33,000 views, up substantially from the norm of 5,000 monthly views. Since the beginning of Fall Prevention Focus in 2014, the Air Force has seen almost a 31% decrease in on-duty non-sports related fall injuries.



Bill Parsons
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Headquarters, Air Force Safety Center

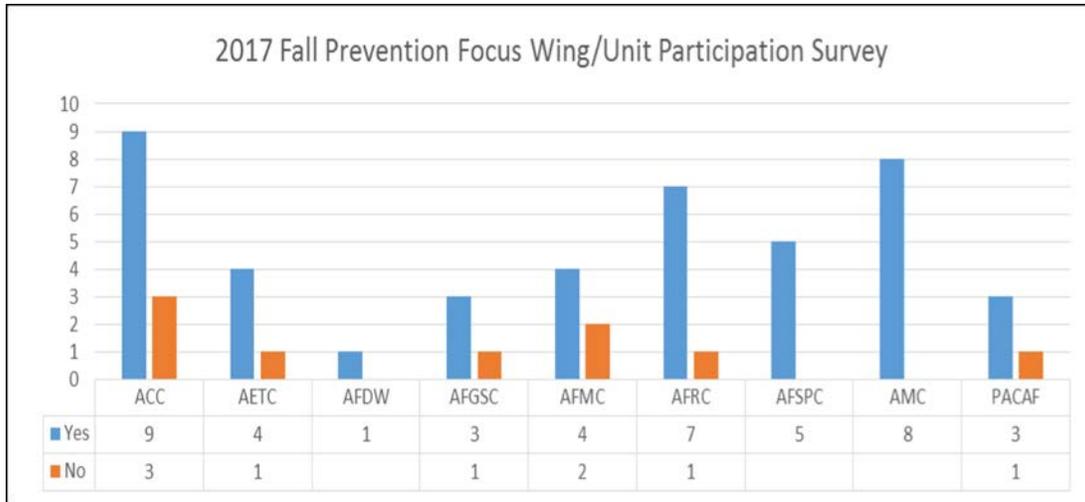


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Wing/Unit Participation

A post participation survey was sent to all AF wings/units through their respective MAJCOMs to obtain feedback on voluntary participation in the 2017 Fall Prevention Focus. Over 83% of AF wing/unit respondents participated during the Fall Prevention Focus. The most common reason for non-participation was overlapping mission requirements. However, of those wing/units not participating during the Focus, 1/3 reported an intent to perform fall prevention activities later this year.

Installation Feedback & Highlights



Most comments and suggestions were positive and supportive of the Fall Prevention Focus program. Here are a few examples of the comments received:

- “The information provided on the SharePoint site was very helpfully. It contained lots of useful information and somewhat of a schedule/topics to cover. This really took away a lot of the planning and effort required at the base level on what topics to cover.”
- “The focus information and resources on the public site and SEG SharePoint were excellent. Please continue these efforts.”
- “AFSEC did great with providing materials on SharePoint for this. (Note: OSHA also had materials available which were also sent out).”
- “I would like to see fall protection tips sent out daily during this focus. Things that will help safety offices do program assessments.”
- “In the future the AF Fall prevention Focus should be a tasker sent to the Commanders/Directors of operations to initiate the focus... I've seen more of a response when programs are initiated from the Top.”
- “Recommend besides the SE channels, pushing the campaign down from HHQ to each unit with Fall Protection programs, CES, MXS, CS...”

Below are a few highlights of installations that went above-and-beyond with their Fall Prevention initiatives.



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Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan



At this forward deployed location, Airmen performed a Fall Protection Focus to support OSHA's National Safety Stand-down. These Airmen discussed inspections and JSAs to perform safe procedures, while supporting the Wing Commanders main initiative of reducing hazards by providing lighting on the airfield. This lighting is instrumental to the Army Forward Arming Point for attack helicopters and unmanned aircraft providing close air support.



Photos by SSgt Gonsier

Robins AFB, GA



Warner Robins Air Logistics Complex brought a vendor on base and demonstrated a variety of fall protection products at three different locations. Published safety articles before, during, and after the Fall Protection Focus using all means available such as the local base paper, Facebook, Public and Secure websites. Information (videos, PowerPoint Presentations, Posters) was also provided on the Safety Office's SharePoint with links to other sites. Messages were presented using the base Marquees and Splash Page. At the conclusion of the Focus, an email was sent to all base personnel requesting the number of personnel reached using the information available.

Joint Base Charleston, SC



Spearheaded 21 high interest spot inspections with emphasis placed on falls. Conducted a Safety Day at Naval Health Clinic Charleston (NHCC) with a special awareness placed on falls. Conducted two Unit Safety Representative training sessions that included instruction on fall prevention in the workplace. Conducted Supervisor Safety Training that included instruction on fall prevention in the workplace. Conducted ramp inspections (flightline) with emphasis placed on fall prevention.

Hanscom AFB, MA



66 ABG/SE funded/hosted OSHA 7405-Fall Hazard Awareness course for employees who perform work at heights. Provided awareness/reminders at senior leader meetings and distributed fall hazard awareness materials Units safety representatives. Provided awareness article highlighting fall prevention awareness.

Joint Base Langley-Eustis, VA



The 633 ABW Safety Office hosted multiple events, to include a live fall protection demonstration with rescue from the Fire Dept; a Question of the Day Campaign using OSHA regulations; community involvement & educational display at the BX; and a round table discussion with leaders from sections that utilize and are affected by fall protection.



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Air Force Occupational Safety Materials

AFSEC Occupational Outreach provided multiple fall prevention resources, such as in-depth analysis, safety tip sheets, posters, checklists, videos, articles and PowerPoint presentations. These materials were made available via the public website, SharePoint and email.



Air Force Fall Prevention Focus 8-19 May 2017

LADDER SAFETY

- Do not use ladders in high winds
- Use the right ladder for the job and inspect it
- If you feel tired or dizzy, stay off the ladder
- Always keep three points-of-contact
- Stay centered

YOUR PATH TO SAFETY IS A CLEAR ONE.....



Air Force Fall Prevention Focus 8-19 May 2017



Hundreds of fall mishaps occur across the Air Force every year, resulting in thousands of lost work days, and much worse outcomes. Did you know Air Force personnel were involved in almost 3,500 falls resulting in 13 fatalities from 2012 – 2016 (on and off duty)? This doesn't include sports-related falls during the same time period. Let's work together to reduce the # of falls for 2017!

FY08 to FY16 On-Duty Falls class A-C

Fiscal Year	Slip, Trip & Fall Same Level	Slip, Trip & Fall Stairs	Fall to other level	Fall from Furniture	Fall from Scaffolding/Stand/Pole
2008	291	74	38	13	35
2009	295	67	21	12	13
2010	321	64	26	14	12
2011	307	54	23	12	12
2012	290	52	24	13	17
2013	266	42	28	14	18
2014	296	41	9	14	8
2015	233	39	20	8	8
2016	197	25	15	3	15



AFSEC is teaming up with OSHA and NIOSH for the 4th year in a row to showcase the annual Fall Prevention Focus, 8-19 May, and the OSHA National Safety Stand-Down, 8-12 May.

Q: HOW CAN YOU PARTICIPATE?

A: STAND-DOWN!

What is a Safety Stand-Down? A Safety Stand-Down is a voluntary event in which leaders talk directly to employees about hazards, protective methods and Air Force safety policies and goals. It is also an excellent opportunity for employees to voice their concerns and suggestions about fall hazards and fall protection policies. Air Force Occupational Safety is asking MAJCOMs to support the Fall Prevention Focus by encouraging supervisors and users to participate in conducting a fall prevention stand-down during the 7 week-long event.

Don't use walkways to store items Clean up spills and pick up debris

Identify, Rectify or Report Hazards

Click here to submit your Fall Prevention Focus materials



Hey You!

CLICK HERE

Tell us about your 2017 USAF Fall Prevention Focus Experience

CLICK HERE

AF Occupational Safety FALL PREVENTION FOCUS 8 - 19 MAY 2017





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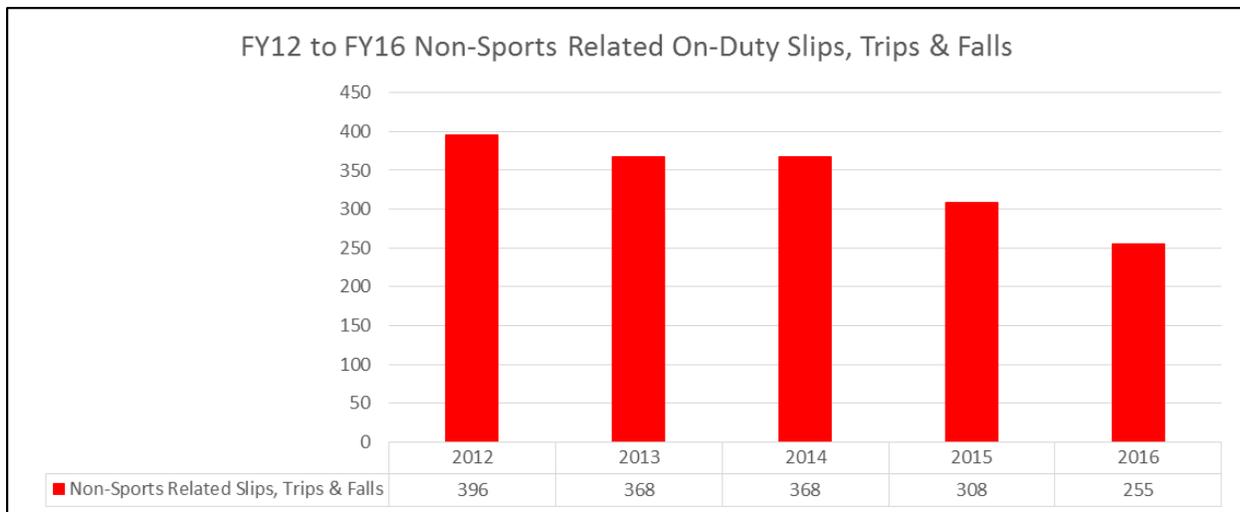
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Summary

In conclusion, the 2017 Fall Prevention Focus for the USAF was well-received and very successful. The key takeaways for Air Force Occupational Safety were:

1. Occupational Safety-created Fall Prevention Focus materials that were highly utilized. Most units were able to locate resources without issue through the Air Force Occupational Safety SharePoint site and public site.
 - a. Prepare wider variety of fall prevention materials that are easily modified for use by Wings/Units.
 - b. Ensure fall prevention materials are available with sufficient lead time to allow participants time to prepare for participation.
2. Units and individual Airmen welcome fall prevention efforts. The quick and informal meetings detailed in our “Safety Stand-Down” instructions resonated with most units.
 - a. Maintain the emphasis on a simplistic approach (K.I.S.S.).
 - b. Ensure materials and focus plans are structured for simple, small to medium scale distribution.
3. Our Airmen prefer communication from the top down.
 - a. Have high-ranking Air Force officials send out a video message or email requesting all units participate in the Fall Prevention Focus.
 - b. Provide a daily fall prevention tip.

The Fall Prevention Focus is a valuable reminder to Airmen of the safety precautions they should be using every day and will remain an ongoing effort. Resources were made readily available on SharePoint and were highly utilized. From the survey analysis, it was evident the Occupational Safety SharePoint site is gaining popularity with Airmen and is a powerful resource for the Fall Prevention Focus in the future. The suggestions made by Airmen for improvements to the Focus are valuable and will be taken into consideration for the 2018 Fall Prevention Focus.



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