

Emergency Rescue Planning!

Rescue is not just an element of a fall protection plan; it's a critical procedure that needs to be prioritized on an equal level. Why? Workers are at risk of serious injury, even death, from falls. Further, the falls don't have to be from a significant height for a worker to be injured or killed.

In the event a worker falls and is wearing a harness, he's still dangling and at risk of suspension trauma, which can set in quickly if he's not rescued. ANSI requires hands on in six minutes and rescued in less than thirty minutes. This further builds the case for making rescue planning a priority.

A fall protection plan is common place for most employers, but does it include a rescue plan? Even with the best fall protection plan and equipment in place, accidents do happen. How can you protect your workers at height in the event they need a way to save themselves or rescue a co-worker?

What can you do to protect yourself?

- Pre-task work assignments and identify potential hazards before beginning work.
- Identify and eliminate fall hazards in the workplace if possible.
- Utilize methods to assure 100% fall protection.
- Be sure anchor points can support a static load of 5,000 pounds.
- Pre-walk work areas and identify best means of rescue in the event of a fall.
- Identify rescue anchor points and have rescue equipment available and ready in the event of a fall. Be prepared to perform rescue in under 5 minutes

Do This!

- Pre-task work assignments and identify potential hazards before beginning work.
- Have Competent and Authorized Rescue personnel trained.
- Be sure anchor points can support a static load of 5,000 pounds.
- Issue Trauma Straps to all employees.
- Pre-walk work areas and identify best means of rescue in the event of a fall.

Don't do this!

- Begin work without identifying hazards and establishing fall rescue plan.
- Attach tie off point to questionable anchorage.
- Work alone.
- Begin work without having a means of rescue available.
- Develop single fall rescue plan that does not apply to all tasks and locations of work being performed.





Safety Bulletin

Subject _____

Date _____

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