



SECTION 2. SAFETY

The Fall Protection systems in this manual have been designed for employees which fall within the weight range of 130 lbs. – 310 lbs. total weight.

Employees who are exposed to fall hazards greater than 4 feet must attend training on proper fall protection methods before such work is performed and must act in accordance with the Company's Safety at Heights Program.

2.1 GENERAL SAFETY

All personal fall protection / rope access systems must include a method of rescue. Rescue, as defined in this document, occurs when employees come to the aid of a coworker in need of help.

Understanding rescue procedures is a necessary part of our safety program when working on structures. **Accident prevention is every employee's first priority** and employees constantly are reminded to work safely on the jobsite; however, accidents sometimes happen. Understanding the procedures described in this manual will help to ensure the successful rescue of an injured coworker and the safety of his or her rescuer(s).

Discuss structure rescue procedures during the tailboard briefing. Assign specific roles and responsibilities. All employees at the jobsite must attend the tailboard briefing and clearly understand their roles and the roles of others during rescue operations.



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Safety is the number one concern during any rescue and must be considered when planning every job. Before work begins, review the rescue plan and ensure that employees on the jobsite understand their roles and responsibilities in a crisis situation. Ensure that these roles and responsibilities are defined, agreed on, and understood as part of each tailboard.

For employees to perform a rescue safely, they must know the answers to the following questions in advance of a crisis:

1. What type of rescue will be performed?
2. Where is the rescue equipment?
3. What is the communication plan during an emergency?
4. Where are emergency services and how do we transport the victim?
5. How long will the rescue operation take?
6. Will there be a helicopter with long-line capabilities present?

NOTE 1: All rescue procedures are designed for two or more employees.

NOTE 2: When determining the best method of rescue, consider factors such as the height of the structure in your tailboard.

NOTE 3: TD-1466P-02 Transmission Operating Procedures Section 13 states: Working on or Near Towers or Energized Lines, Security of towers and multi-pole structures: For security purposes, verbally notify the appropriate control center or switching center before working on or near towers or multi-pole structures.

This work includes but is not limited to the following:

- Ground or air patrols.
 - Vegetation management.
 - Telecommunications work.
 - Painting.
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NOTE 4: The helicopter is a viable option apart of rescue procedures.

2.2 BEFORE YOU START

When planning a job special considerations will be given to safety at heights and the method of ascending and descending a structure. Aerial lifts, helicopters, and traditional climbing methods all have their place when planning each job. Environmental conditions, crew size, and time constraints are some of the conditions which could influence the way each job is set during scheduling and work planning.

All components in the Fall Protection / Rescue kits are designed solely for the safety during day-to-day safety at heights and rescue of injured employees. **Do not remove** any of the components from the kit except to inspect the equipment, to practice with the equipment during training exercises when climbing, working at heights above 4 feet, or use the equipment in the event of a rescue.

Before starting each job, inspect tools used to perform rescue which are in addition to the fall protection equipment to ensure all essential components are available and in good working order (in the event rescue would be required).

2.3 EQUIPMENT INSPECTION

Inspect all fall protection equipment before each use and remove from service immediately if determined defective.

Test all rope prior to performing any work where the rope will encroach on Minimum Working Distance. Refer to rope testing in Appendix 1.

WARNING

Inspecting and properly caring for personal climbing equipment is the best defense from fall-related injuries.

1. Perform daily inspections – Visually before use.
2. In addition to the inspection requirements set forth in the manufacturer's instructions, the equipment shall be inspected for the following:
 - a. Absence of, or illegible markings.
 - b. Absence of any elements affecting the equipment form, fit, or function.



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- c. Evidence of defects in or damage to hardware elements including cracks, sharp edges, deformation, corrosion, chemical attack, excessive heating, alteration and excessive wear.
- d. Evidence of defects in or damage to straps or ropes including fraying, unsplicing, unlaying, kinking, knotting, broken or pulled stitches, excessive elongation, chemical attack, excessive soiling, abrasion, alteration, needed or excessive lubrication, excessive aging and excessive wear.
- e. Alteration, absence of parts, or evidence of defects in, damage to or improper function of mechanical device and connectors.