ANCHOR POINTS

One of the most important aspects of fall arrest systems is fully planning the system before it is put into use, and this includes planning for a suitable anchor point.

The term *anchor point* is often used interchangeably with similar words and phrases like anchorages, anchors, or tie-off points. They all refer to the portion of the personal fall arrest system that is the attachment point for lifelines, lanyards or deceleration devices and are designed to remain secure under the forces generated during a fall.

Anchor points can be:

1. Permanently installed, for areas that are accessed often, or may need to be accessed safely in the future
2. Portable, for one-time jobs that require a temporary anchor point

Parapet Anchor for Concrete

- Reusable anchor points are used where workers need regular access to the same location to perform inspections, maintenance, or other tasks. They can be left in place while needed, then removed and reused in another location.
- Single-use anchors are an option for tasks where workers do not require access to the location on a regular basis or when anchors are needed for multiple workers. Single-use anchors are removed and destroyed after one use.
- Permanent anchors provide a convenient tie-off point when roof access or maintenance is required on a regular basis.
- Freestanding anchors are used near edges or in open spaces when there is no location available to insert an anchorage connector and overhead anchor options are not available.
- Door and window jamb anchors are clamped in place across the opening of a door or window.
- Anchor points should always be inspected (and replaced if needed) after being exposed to a fall.

Webbed-Strap Pass-Through Anchor

Webbed-Strap Choker Anchor

OSHA Standard 1910.140(c)(12) *Anchorages used to attach to personal fall protection equipment must be independent of any anchorage used to suspend employees or platforms on which employees work.*

Discussion

All product images are from Grainger.com

Fixed anchor points remain in one place and limit your work area, while mobile anchorage connectors allow more freedom of movement when they connect to a device like a lifeline. Which type do you prefer and why?