

Inspecting Fall Arrest Systems

Volume 1 Fast 100 Issue 37C-2

Fall hazards are recognized as one of the “OSHA Big Four” which account for the majority of fatalities in the construction industry.

OSHA Standard 1926.502(d)(21) *Personal fall arrest systems shall be inspected prior to each use for wear, damage and other deterioration, and defective components shall be removed from service.*

Personal Fall Arrest Systems (PFAS) must be inspected before each use.

- Workers should look for any signs of damage on connectors, clips, carabiners, or the webbing of the lanyards, or ropes used.
- Excessive wear, worn-out, or frayed items should be removed from service immediately!
- Rusted components, webbing that has been burned or soaked in chemicals or paint must not be used.
- Inspections should include looking for any signs of damage, excessive wear, rust, or chemical damage.
- Any fall arrest system equipment found to be defective must be removed from service immediately!
- Inspections should be documented using an inspection tag or other documentation.
- Workers must be trained in fall protection and the specific types of Personal Fall Arrest Systems they will use on the job.

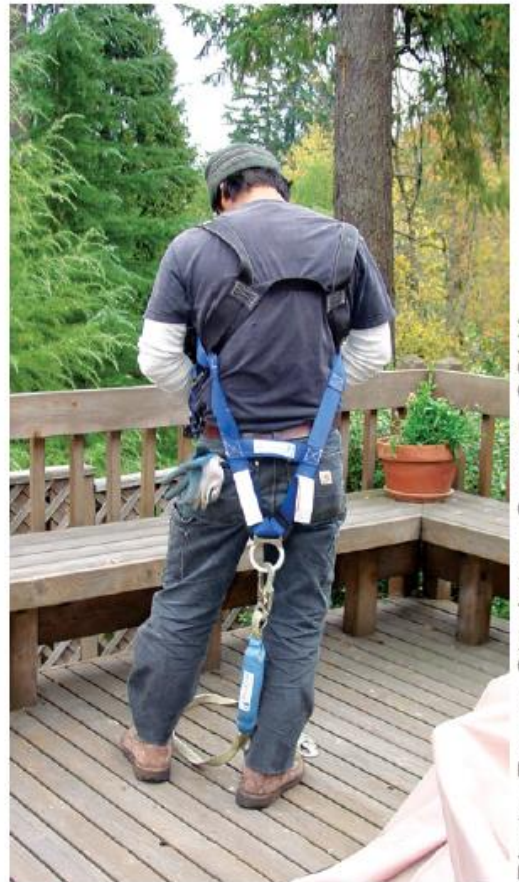


Photo: Renee Stapleton, Oregon OSHA

You can't assume employees know how to protect themselves from falls. This one put his personal fall-arrest gear on upside down.

Not for resale or unauthorized redistribution. For all terms & conditions that apply, please visit www.weeklysafety.com.