



SHEAR BULL



Palm Beach County Roofing & Sheet Metal Contractors Association

Affiliate of FRSA and NRCA

July 2013 Volume 26 - 7

No Meeting in July

FRSA CONVENTION

FRSA "Profiting Through Professionalism" 2013 Convention & Trade Show

July 18-20, 2013

Rosen Shingle Creek Resort & Convention Center
Orlando, FL

View more information:
<http://www.floridarooft.com/convention>

Inside

p2. President's Message

p3. "Commonly Misused" Cont'd

p4. Industry Websites

p5. August Calendar

Commonly Misused Fall Protection System

By: Robin Bennett, Safety Specialist,
Atlanta-East OSHA Area Office

When an employee is working above ground levels, whether in a General Industry or Construction setting, fall hazards may be present where appropriate fall protection is required under the OSHA standards. Employees exposed to fall hazards of 4 feet or more in General Industry and 6 feet or more in Construction, require some form of fall protection whether it be guardrail systems, personal fall arrest systems, restraint systems or safety net systems. The employer must select a fall protection system that is adequate for the type of work and affords the employees a safe working environment.

When using a personal fall arrest system, a full body harness is required. Body belts have not been permissible for many years as part of a personal fall arrest system. According to the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), 8,102 deaths occurred as a result of falls from elevations between 1980 and 1994. Falls from elevations accounted for 10 percent of all work-related deaths in the U.S. during that period and are the leading cause of death in construction workplace accidents, according to OSHA statistics. More than 85 percent of falls occurring in the workplace result in lost work time.

In recent years, it has become a problem in the roofing industry where employees are using rock rappelling/climbing equipment in place of an adequate personal fall arrest system. The rappelling/climbing harness which fits over the legs and buckles at the user's waist are popular among roofing workers. The workers are attaching carabiners directly to the webbing of the rappelling/climbing harness and using the carabiner as a point of attachment for the lanyard. During the installation of shingles and tiles to the roof surface, workers have to routinely bend over and they find it easier to use the rappelling/climbing harness since the attachment location is in the front of the body at the waist and not in the center of the user's back. This type of system is dangerous, gives the workers a false sense of security, and does not meet the requirements for a personal fall protection system under the OSHA standards.

Employers are not always making themselves knowledgeable of OSHA's requirements for fall protection and/or are making the decision that **some** fall protection is better than **no** fall protection. This is one instance where that old saying, "something is better than nothing" does not pass the common sense test and can have serious, if not fatal, consequences for employees that are allowed to use the rappelling/climbing harness system.

A personal fall arrest system consists of three elements, each of which is equally important: the full body harness, the lanyard and the anchor point. The harness fits around the person's legs, over their arms and around

(continued on page 3)

FULL BODY HARNESS



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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Thanks to a number of our supplier members, our last general membership meeting had a respectable attendance. This meeting was an example of how beneficial our meetings can be to our members. Cara Barrick, Esq. of the Loren Law Firm spoke about important Human Resource issues. She covered what all contractors need to know about the Fair Labor Standards Act which deals with issues about minimum wage, overtime pay and record keeping. She gave us insights into Obamacare and its effects on small businesses. These subjects have grave consequences for our contractor member and could result in costly penalties.



It is clear that times are changing. Boot strap operations without proper record keeping are no longer an option. Knowledge becomes an important asset for any business. And that knowledge can come from informative trade association meetings. We ask our members to pay attention to future meetings and their subjects. There will be no meeting in July due to the conflict with the FRSA conference and convention. In August just prior to the hurricane season, our speaker will be Steve Weagle, Chief Meteorologist for WPTV. Future meetings will include financial planning, OSHA Fall Protection issues and public speaking hints to help in presenting your company in a positive light.

Mark your calendar now and plan to attend.

See you at our next meeting.

Respectfully Submitted

Daniel Stokes

President

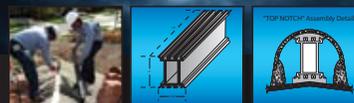
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Commonly Misused Fall Protection System *Continued...*

By: Robin Bennett, Safety Specialist,
Atlanta-East OSHA Area Office

their body. A D-ring is located on the harness between the person's shoulder blades where the lanyard is attached. Should a fall take place, the person will be suspended in the harness. It is critical that the employer and employee select a harness that fits properly around the employee's body. If worn loosely, a person can be thrown out of or slip from the harness. Adequate clearance must be calculated to ensure that the worker does not hit the ground. This includes taking into account the worker's height, lanyard length, anchor point location, and height of the work level.

Personal fall arrest systems must be inspected prior to each use for wear, damage and other deterioration, and any defective component removed from service. When a component of the personal fall arrest system is damaged or is subjected to impact loading, it must be immediately removed from service and not be used again for employee protection until inspected and determined by a competent person to be undamaged and suitable for reuse. The employer must provide for prompt rescue of employees in the event of a fall or ensure that employees are able to rescue themselves.

It is also the employer's responsibility to provide a training program for each employee who might be exposed to fall hazards. The program must enable each employee to recognize the hazards of falling and the procedures to be followed in order to minimize these hazards. Employers must keep a written record certifying that they have trained their employees. If an

employee demonstrates that they do not understand the fall protection guidelines, it is the employer's responsibility to retrain them. In OSHA's construction standards the regulation requires a "competent person" to ensure all fall protection systems have been installed and are being used correctly on an ongoing basis. The employer must also determine if the walking/working surfaces on which its employees are to work have the



strength and structural integrity to support employees safely. Employees shall be allowed to work on those surfaces only when the surfaces have the requisite strength and structural integrity. For more information regarding falls, please visit <http://www.osha.gov/SLTC/fallprotection> or visit your local OSHA area office.



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Industry Websites

- ASTM - www.guidance-inc.com/~roofroof/
- American Consulting Engineers Council - acec.org
- American Institute of Architects - aia.org
- American Society of Civil Engineers - asce.org
- Building Officials Association of Palm Beach County -
www.boapbc.org & www.boapbc.org/links
- Cedar Shake & Shingle Bureau - www.CEDARBUREAU.org
- Construction Industry Management Council (CIMC) - www.cimcpbc.com
- Construction Specifications Institute - <http://www.csinet.org>
- Copper Development Association - <http://www.copper.org>
- Division of Workers' Compensation - <http://www.wc.les.state.fl.us/DWC/>
- Florida Roofing, Sheet Metal & Air Conditioning Contractors Association
- www.Floridarroof.com
- Galvalume Sheet Producers - www.steelroofing.com
- National Roofing Contractors Association (NRCA) - <http://www.nrca.net>
- National Society of Professional Engineers - nspe.org
- Roofing Contractors Association of South Florida (RCASF) - www.rcasf.org
- Roofing Industry Education Institute
- <http://members.aol.com/RIEIROOF/classes.htm>
- Roof Tile Institute - www.rooftile.org
- Sheet Membrane and Component Suppliers to the Commercial
Roofing Industry (SPRI) - www.SPRI.org
- Sheet Metal and Air Conditioning Contractors' National Association
(SMACNA) - <http://www.smacna.org>
- The Council of American Building Officials (CABO) - <http://www.cabo.org>



Palm Beach County Roofing And Sheet Metal Contractors' Association

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August 2013

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| 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| | | | BCAB 2:00PM | | | |
| 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 |
| | | | General Member Meeting | | | |

August Program

Steve Weagle,
 Chief Meteorologist
 WPTV Channel 5

August 28, 2013

6:00PM-7:00PM Networking
 7:00PM Dinner Meeting

Holiday Inn

1301 Belvedere Rd (At I95 Exit 69)
 West Palm Beach, FL 33405

PBCR & SMCA Office and Phones

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