



FALL PROTECTION

THE NEWEST SYSTEMS PROTECT WORKERS EVEN AFTER A FALL

Few people realize that even after a fall protection harness does its job, the fallen worker can still be seriously injured or even killed if not rescued promptly. These top safety manufacturers are developing ways to combat the hidden hazards of falls from heights.

WERNER FALL PROTECTION

One important aspect of fall protection that often gets overlooked is post-fall trauma. People tend to focus on the way fall protection equipment prevents the user from hitting the ground, but that's far from the only danger presented by a fall from height.



MILLER

Traditional harnesses, even when working correctly, can create pressure points in critical areas like the clavicle and the femoral artery. These pressure points can cause serious injuries or even death, especially in the case of dangerously restricted blood flow.

"At Werner, we've worked to address these potential issues by developing the Werner ProForm F3 harness family, which is specifically designed to help the wearer avoid post-fall trauma," says Eric Miller, group product manager, Werner. "The ProForm F3 is constructed with patented built-in Relief Cords that allow the user to achieve a gravity override position with simple, quick adjustments.

This helps relieve pressure on the major arteries in the legs and neck, simplifying a potentially life-saving maneuver that must be performed under immense stress."

The new design has other benefits, too — the sports-inspired ProForm F3 dual back pad system, which allows the wearer to reposition the shoulder straps after a fall, provides cooling airflow and comfort. WebAlert2 also adds weather resistant coating to Werner's inspectable webbing. An SRL bumper protecting the lower back and gear loops for tools help keep ProForm F3 wearers comfortable and productive.

"The Werner ProForm F3 is the next step in the evolution of Werner's Fall Protection lineup, which keeps users safe from the moment they leave the ground to before — or even after — a fall," Miller states.

FALLTECH

FallTech, an innovator and leader in Fall Protection Equipment for workers at heights, continues to launch innovative new products. The two newest additions are the Kernmantle Rope Temporary Two-Person Horizontal Lifeline (HLL) and the Advanced ComforTech Gel harness. The Kernmantle HLL is a completely engineered system



Werner's ProForm F3 harnesses are designed to help the wearer avoid post-fall trauma with Relief Cords that enable the wearer to make easy adjustments that relieve pressure on leg and neck arteries.

with all of the components necessary to quickly and easily install a horizontal lifeline.

"The FallTech Kernmantle HLL includes the components required to easily set-up a safe and effective temporary horizontal lifeline system for continuous fall protection for up to two workers and offers ideal protection when an overhead anchor is not available," says Shatiana Griffin, FallTech marketing specialist. "The Kernmantle HLL system is offered in spans of 30 and 60 feet and is able to be used on lengths in between."

FallTech's new Advanced ComforTech Gel harnesses address comfort with an endoskeleton frame with a proprietary polymer gel in the shoulder and waist pads for added support and cushioning at key impact areas.



The new Advanced ComforTech Gel harness from FallTech features a proprietary polymer gel that absorbs energy in pinch points such as the shoulders and waist.

"This advanced polymer gel provides energy absorption in critical pinch points like the shoulders to reduce fatigue, aiding in the prevention of work related injuries," Griffin explains. "The Advanced ComforTech Gel harnesses offer numerous body wear options — Construction Belted, Non-Belted, Retrieval and Climbing configurations."

STRONG MAN SAFETY PRODUCTS

Perimeter safety systems might not be the first thing on one's mind when it comes to a person's job site, but Jay Kinder sees things differently.

"Perimeter protection is a vital part of any project's safety program," says Jay, president of Strong Man Safety Products. "That's why we've put extra thought into our Personnel Safety Netting."

Strong Man has been in the construction industry for over 43 years, specializing in safety netting, that protects

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by Tom Hammel



Strong Man safety netting is easy to install, use and maintain. It is a great investment in the safety of the job site and the workers whose lives and livelihoods depend on it.

the lives of workers from falling debris and accidents. Strong Man's SBN-22 debris netting is the company's

flagship product in safety netting and is an industry standard. With 10-foot, 6-inch wide widths available now and 12-foot widths available soon, SBN-22 provides true floor to ceiling job site protection.

Strong Man Personnel Safety Netting is easy to install, easy to use and easy to maintain. But proper safety also promotes more productivity and better morale since workers can work without worry. Insurance rates can go down and safety ratings go up, making the employer even more attractive to competitive talent.

"We take a lot of pride in making job sites safe," Kinder states. "Most of our employees came from the construction or scaffolding industry. They've seen a lot. They bring their experiences with them and act as advocates for safer job sites. One way to do this is to get Strong Man involved from day one. If a job site needs to be kept safe, Strong Man can help."



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protection industry, offering workers peace of mind that, if used correctly, their fall protection equipment can save their lives. But even when fall protection equipment works properly, hidden hazards can lead to tragedy.

"When your employee is hanging in the air is not the time to develop a rescue plan!" says FrenchCreek Production president Jason Wible. "Suspension trauma itself can be lethal due to oxygen deprivation of the brain."

The FrenchCreek U-RES-Q system is designed to bring immediate relief to a fallen worker and prevent suspension trauma. In the event of a fall, a light-weight pouch releases a high-strength 16-foot rescue ladder. The worker can climb back to the work platform or stand on the ladder to relieve pressure until rescue.

Frenchcreek also recommends the System 99 self-raising/self-lowering system for utility/work systems or rescue and recovery. With a mechanical advantage of 3 to 1, it is easily operated by one person. Should an emergency

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The FrenchCreek U-RES-Q system is designed to prevent suspension trauma. It features a high-strength 16-foot rescue ladder the worker can use to climb to safety or stand on until help arrives.

situation occur, a top-side worker can utilize the system to rescue an incapacitated worker.

"Far too often, employers are not prepared for a rescue, although they will tell you that they are," Wible observes. "It is imperative that you continuously practice your rescue plan and update it as needed. In many cases, unplanned rescue attempts can result in more injuries or fatalities. As the saying goes, 'A failure to plan is planning to fail.'" **cs**

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