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FALL PROTECTION

NEW PRODUCTS AND TRAINING PROGRAMS DRIVE SAFETY AWARENESS

As much as awareness of safety hazards and compliance has grown in recent years, preventable injuries and deaths continue to occur all too often. Over 20 percent of worker fatalities in 2013 were in the construction trades, with falls being the leading killer. These four manufacturers are working to reduce those tragic statistics.

RIGID LIFELINES

The construction industry typically requires temporary fall arrest systems that are transportable after work is complete. Many current products service this need and keep workers compliant with OSHA's construction fall protection requirements. But, there are fall arrest challenges on a work site, such as accessing large vehicles for maintenance or working in pits without anchor points. Rigid Lifelines provides two mobile products for these unique applications.

"Rolling A-Frame and Griffin fall arrest systems are designed with Rigid Lifelines' original enclosed Anchor Track, an enclosed steel or aluminum rail that houses a rolling Anchor Trolley," says Steve Uhlig, vice president of Rigid

Lifelines. "Our Anchor Track and Anchor Trolley provide an anchor point and full range of motion. Anchor Track's biggest benefit is its rigidity, meaning it decreases fall distances through no deflection. The patented Anchor Trolley glides inside the Anchor Track, limiting post-fall drift and increasing self-rescue capability."



UHLIG

Rigid Lifelines' Griffin Anchor Track System is a mobile fall arrest system with wide overhead coverage. The Griffin includes either a skidded or wheeled base. The skidded model is easily moved with a large forklift, and the wheeled model can be towed with a heavy-duty truck. The Griffin is great for construction sites that require vehicle cleaning, maintenance, inspection, loading or unloading.

"Rigid Lifelines' Rolling A-Frame Anchor Track System is a portable overhead fall arrest system easily assembled on site," Uhlig continues. "Available with pneumatic tires for rough terrain, the Rolling A-Frame is simply rolled and locked into place. The system can be customized by application or provided in standard spans and heights. Rolling A-Frames are manufactured in steel or aluminum,

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“The next time you evaluate fall protection for your construction customer, consider if Rigid Lifelines mobile products can provide a solution,” Uhlig advises.

ACRO BUILDING SYSTEMS

“How many times have you walked around a job site and seen guardrails constructed of 2x4s and angle cut pieces of OSB?” asks Chris Bilke, product manager for Acro Building Systems. “How many times have you seen a five-gallon bucket filled with concrete with a 2x4 sticking out of it used as a warning line stanchion? These are situations in need of Acro’s universal guardrail systems.”



BILKE

Acro universal guardrail systems set up and tear down quickly, with no measuring or cutting needed, and contractors can reuse their mid rail and top rail lumber. Better still, Acro guardrail systems ensure OSHA compliance and pay for themselves in just seven jobs.



Guardrail systems from Acro Building Systems are OSHA compliant, quick to install and tear down, configurable for virtually any hazard and reusable, with rapid contractor ROIs.

Acro also has guardrail systems for parapet walls and open edges.

“The model 12045 Vertical Guardrail System was initially designed for use on the outside of parapet walls to allow clearance for cap replacement, but we are constantly amazed by new uses for this versatile system,” Bilke continues. “Imagine setting up a fall protection system that leaves everyone free to work and doesn’t have to be moved or get in the way. It is ideal for flat roofs, metal roofs, parapets, skylights, stairwells, elevator shafts and more.”



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The Acro Vertical Guardrail System mounts to any vertical surface, including parapet walls, header beams, floor joists, wall studs and roof trusses. Its bracketing can be screwed or bolted to lumber or masonry to easily make temporary guardrail around holes or on edges. Its post holder is recessed two inches from the mounting plate for clearance of parapet cap and drip edges. Its components are powder-coated safety yellow and the system complies with OSHA regulations and allows maximum spacing up to eight feet apart when used with construction grade lumber.

WERNERCO

Fatalities caused by falls account for more than one-third of all construction deaths and many of these can be prevented with proper training and education. To help limit falls in construction, the Occupational Safety & Health Administration (OSHA) hosts an annual National Safety Stand-Down campaign that focuses on the top 10 most frequently cited OSHA violations in order to prevent accidents such as falls from ladders or structural steel.

"To support this safety initiative, WernerCo conducted 75 trainings during the 11-day period," says Chris Filardi,



In support of this year's National Safety Stand-down campaign, WernerCo conducted 75 trainings in May, reaching more than 5,000 end-users nationwide.



WernerCo vice president. "From May 4 to 15, 2015 WernerCo targeted commercial and residential construction contractors and safety professionals. More than 5,000 end-users were trained in job site safety over the course of this campaign."



FILARDI

These events were conducted by the WernerCo End User Specialist (EUS) team, consisting of 28 safety

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professionals throughout North America. These individuals spend their time in the field, bringing their classes wherever the end-user works. Each team member is engaged in continuous on-site training simulations, which include everything from basic ladder safety training to maintenance inspections and troubleshooting for van equipment. The EUS team takes this training directly to job sites and offers services from 10-minute safety inspections before work to multiple-day job site competent person courses.

"During the month of May, the WernerCo team worked with crews from all over the country, from Washington State to Florida," Filardi explains. "Each event focused on safety responses based on real-life scenarios. Participants were trained on basic safety by application and how to respond when a potential issue strikes."

"WernerCo sees a successful training as one in which participants can apply the experience to their existing safety programs. From one-on-one trainings to large seminars, the team was able to reinforce OSHA's message and the importance of keeping people safe on the job site."

FALLTECH

As safety regulations and penalties become more stringent, manufacturers are working overtime to develop new fall protection systems for every industry where workers are exposed to falls from elevation. FallTech has introduced several new products so far this year, including the new TowerClimber Rope Positioning Lanyard.

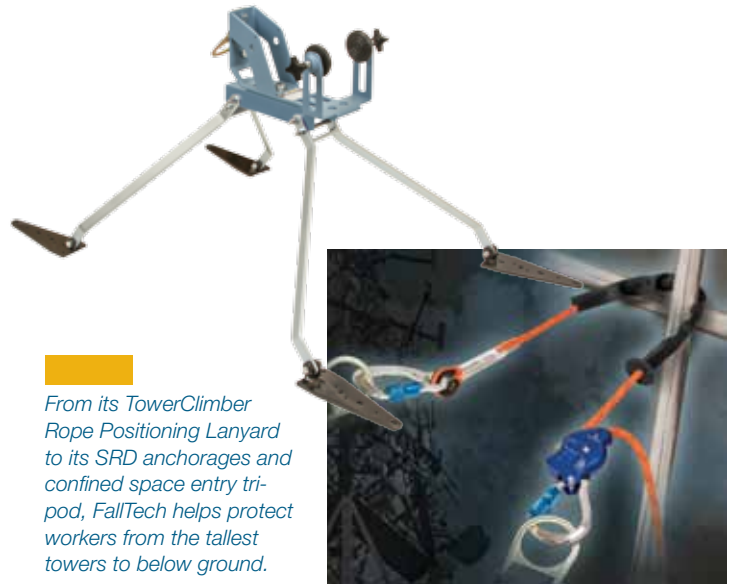
"The FallTech TowerClimber Rope Positioning Lanyard is a durable positioning device for a variety of locations where the worker needs to have their hands free and available to complete the job," begins Kelly May, FallTech marketing manager. "It is available in common lengths of 6.5, 10, 13 and 16.5 feet to accommodate a wide range of structures."



MAY

The TowerClimber has user-friendly connector options in forged steel and lightweight aluminum as well as an aluminum auto-locking rope adjuster for one-handed length adjustment. All FallTech lanyards come with gear bag for easy storage when climbing.

For confined space applications, FallTech says its new eight-foot Confined Space Entry Tripod outperforms typical industrial confined space systems by providing ease of setup, greater lifting range and external pulleys that reduce risk of harm to the attendant.



From its TowerClimber Rope Positioning Lanyard to its SRD anchorages and confined space entry tripod, FallTech helps protect workers from the tallest towers to below ground.

From a compact folded height of 64 inches, the Confined Space Entry Tripod has a working height range from 55 to 91 inches with six-inch adjustments. It weighs just 50 pounds and includes a 70-inch weather-resistant storage bag.

"Designed to facilitate non-entry rescue techniques, the FallTech eight-foot tripod contains two integral head-mounted pulleys for multi-line entry, egress and rescue," May explains. "This dual-pulley system significantly minimizes the need for an attendant to lean over openings and provides greater clearance while attempting rescue."

FallTech anchorage products also perform critical fall protection functions.

The company's newest products are the FallTech Contractor Rotating Elevated SRD Anchor, designed for use with FallTech's Contractor line of SRD's; and the FallTech Deluxe Rotating Elevated SRD Anchor, which can accommodate all FallTech Cable SRD's less than 65 feet. The FallTech Deluxe Rotating SRD Anchor also features an additional connection D-ring for attachment of alternate systems.

These anchors for single or multi-person fall arrest and restraint systems feature 360-degree rotation for greater mobility and ease of movement and extend the functionality of user's FallTech SRD's.

"Designed to hold a wide range of SRD bodies, FallTech Rotating Elevated SRD Anchors are temporary anchors that fasten to wood roofs, and provide 360-degree rotation of the user's personal fall arrest system," May adds.

"With models available to support the attachment of vertical lifelines, the FallTech SRD Anchor is flexible enough to plan for fall arrest and restraint systems." **CS**

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