

Safety and Equipment for the Sign Installer

As noted in the previous article safety is the responsibility of the employer and will need the employee's assistance to, understand, wear, and maintain the required equipment.

This equipment is provided to save your life! The employer may get fined but you may not survive if the equipment is not used.

Most regulations are propagated from OSHA and States may also include some of their own regulations as well. This article will only refer to the OSHA regulations 1910 general regulations and 1926 the construction regulations, as they may pertain to the Sign Industry. I shall only place parts of the complete regulations in this article just for reference. You should go to the site and familiarize yourself with the complete regulations. The regulations are available on the internet @ www.osha.gov.

In the last article we left off with fall protection. The following reprint is from the OSHA site and indicates the basic requirement to provide fall protection.

Duty to have fall protection. - 1926.501

1926.501(a)

"General."

1926.501(a)(1)

This section sets forth requirements for employers to provide fall protection systems. All fall protection required by this section shall conform to the criteria set forth in 1926.502 of this subpart.

Personal Fall Arrest System (Section I - Mandatory; Sections II and III - Non-Mandatory) - 1910.66 App C

The above two reprints from the OSHA site are the locations where you will find the complete regulations. The easiest way to location them is to go to the site, type 1926 or 1910 in the search field and click on regulations. This should take you to the index and then you can toggle to the section you wish.

The most common equipment used in our industry is a harness, lanyard, lifelines, and deceleration equipment. Harnesses should be assigned to an employee and should remain available to them at all times. Sharing of equipment could allow another employee to use defective equipment if a fall occurred and the equipment was not taken out of service.

A lot of the work we do is in a bucket, on a ladder, inside a mansard or on a roof.

Our most common piece of fall protection equipment is a harness, lanyard, or deceleration device and a connection point.



Harness

Lanyard with a deceleration device



Lanyard connected to boom

Photos courtesy of Lamar outdoor
While working in any kind of lift equipment the manufacturer will provide safe and adequate connections for safe attachment.

While working on stages, scaffold without protection lifelines are required:



Photo courtesy of Kerley Sign

Many of the jobs and projects we do require a lot of creative fall protection.

Portable ladders used to access different levels do not require fall protection while climbing. We shall deal with the ladder set up and testing in a later issue. Always remember to use the three (3) point method when climbing.





- 5400 lb attachment point
- Webbing used as a movable anchorage point
- Lanyard and connector
- Body Harness
- Footing not safe without fall protection

While working in mansard store fronts, behind structural walls and many of the confined spaces we are required to place wiring on an installation. There may not be the lighted catwalks with kick plates, required floor sizes and hand rails required by the code for maintenance of equipment.

Regardless of code violations we must be safe in our work, you will notice in the photo I have two lanyards, one is always attached as I move down the catwalk working on the wiring system.



One of the most informative sections on fall protection is the OSHA requirements in the section I have printed the heading below. You show review and print this section for your safety manuals.

Personal Fall Arrest System (Section I - Mandatory; Sections II and III - Non-Mandatory) - 1910.66 App C

Section I of appendix C sets out the mandatory criteria for personal fall arrest systems used by all employees using powered platforms, as required by paragraph (j)(1) of this standard. Section II sets out nonmandatory test procedures which may be used to determine compliance with applicable requirements contained in section I of this appendix. Section III provides nonmandatory guidelines which are intended to assist employers in complying with these provisions.

Reprinted from the OSHA site.

In closing time nor space allows to go further with this article. We shall begin the next issue with equipment safety.

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