

# Fall Protection Criteria, Systems, Engineering

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*NE Region Construction,  
Worcester MA*

*Fall Protection Safety Workshop*

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# Construction products!



# What hazards are hidden?

- Prep for 28 contractors on roof?  
eg. antennas/  
cameras/etc

- Parapets?
- HVAC ducts?
- Window Cleaning anchors?
- Overhead lighting?

- Drop ceilings/utilities?
- Lamps in stairways?
- Stair railing heights?
- Skylights?

- Roof Hatches?



# What we will discuss today:

1. Update on Falls, Fall Standards & Access
2. Anchor principles and practice
3. Elimination v. Control
4. Suspension trauma
5. Rescue
6. Field Knowledge
7. Multiemployer sites – helping Subs
8. Transportation Stationary Vehicle Falls
9. Fall Management
10. Summary and Challenge

# Fatalities USA 2010 Prelim.

■ Total Falls*	635 (14% total)
■ Scaffolds	44
■ Holes	43
■ Ladders	129
■ Roof Falls	117 (18%)
• Skylight	20
• Edge	49
• Roof Surface	18
• Existing Roof Openings	9

\* Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries (CFOI) reported by BLS

# 1. Fall Protection Standards

- ANSI Z359.0 – Z359.18 replace Z359.1
- ANSI Z359 Equipment stds into A10.32
- 29CFR1926.500 - .503 makes good sense; Construction: read the appendices
- A10.32-2004 Construction out of date
- 29CFR1926.1050-1060 Stairs/Ladders

Q: Does Fall Protection really Work? Selection, Training, Observation, Inspection, Maintenance  
What is missing in the Hierarchy of Controls?

## a. Access including Ladders

- The trades that are killed most at height are Roofers
- The major tool of death is ladders
  - The reason is poor selection and transition
- Ladder accessory provides walk-through

1926.1050 – 1060 Stairs and Ladders

## 2. Anchor Principles & Practice

- Competent Persons: Safety-trained mgrs
- Authorized Persons: Safety-trained crew
- Qualified Persons: Structural Engineers
- 5000 lbs experienced Competent Persons
- 2:1 by Qualified Persons (S.E.'s)
- Horizontal Lifelines by Qualified Persons
- I-14.1 Window Cleaning – Anchor designs

Z359.2 and Z359.6 Specifications



## b. FP Controls

### ■ Access:

- Aerial lifts over Ladders
- Scaffolds over Ladders
- Administrative Rules

### ■ Fall Arrest:

- Retractable Lanyards over single Lanyards
- Y-lanyards over single Lanyards
- Horizontal Lifelines over single anchors

# 3. Hazard Elimination or Control

- Educating architects and engineers how to recognize Fall Hazards and Eliminate
- The only answer to reducing fall deaths is Elimination while on the drawing board
- Controls temporarily hide the hazard
- NRCA and Union of Roofers to CM: "Build in your fall protection by design" 2/2/12

Elimination today addresses  
only the client's hazards .  
INSTALL AND LEAVE POLICY

## 4. Suspension Trauma

- Hanging in Harnesses too long (20 mins) raises Venous blood pressure
- Releasing Venous pressure is dangerous
- Train harness users:
  - Shift weight leg to leg when suspended
- Train Rescuers to gradually release strap tension

More information:  
[www.FallSafety.com](http://www.FallSafety.com) See  
under: What's New

# 5. Rescue Considerations

- Do survey for rescue experience
  - Vol. Fire Department members are common
  - Offer extra \$ to participate
- Three person rescue crew min. onsite
  - General, Physical and Mental Capacity
- **Competent Rescuer; Authorized Rescuers**
- Train with **Competent Rescuer Trainer**
- Rescue equipment **Z359.4 compliant/1/2"**
- PrePlan for foreseeable hazards, atriiums

Ref: Tower Instructor EFSS,  
[www.FallSafety.com](http://www.FallSafety.com) see Courses: Rescue

# 6. Field Knowledge

## a. Skylights

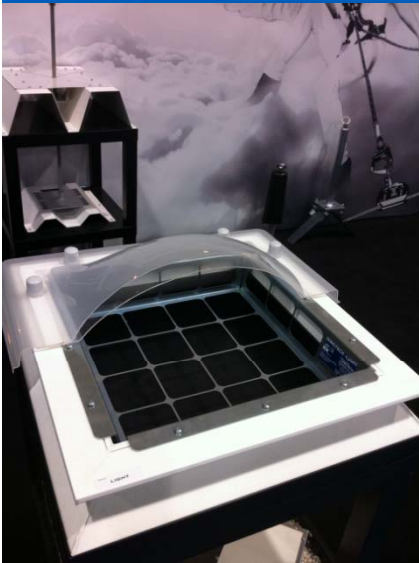
- A tragedy producing 20-50 deaths/yr
- Plastic skylights have short lives
- Immense market in green construction
- Testing: 300 lbs weight (12" dia. punch bag filled with lead shot); 3ft. Drop\*



\*Draft ASTM Standard E06.51.25

# Solution: Selection after a fall .

Alternative:



Grill laser cut  
By Innotech



Arched screens for Plastic Skylights

## b. Roof Hatches



Walmart , Sam's  
Club, Dover DE  
2/ 1/12

# Walk in, Walk out

"Install  
and  
Leave  
Policy"

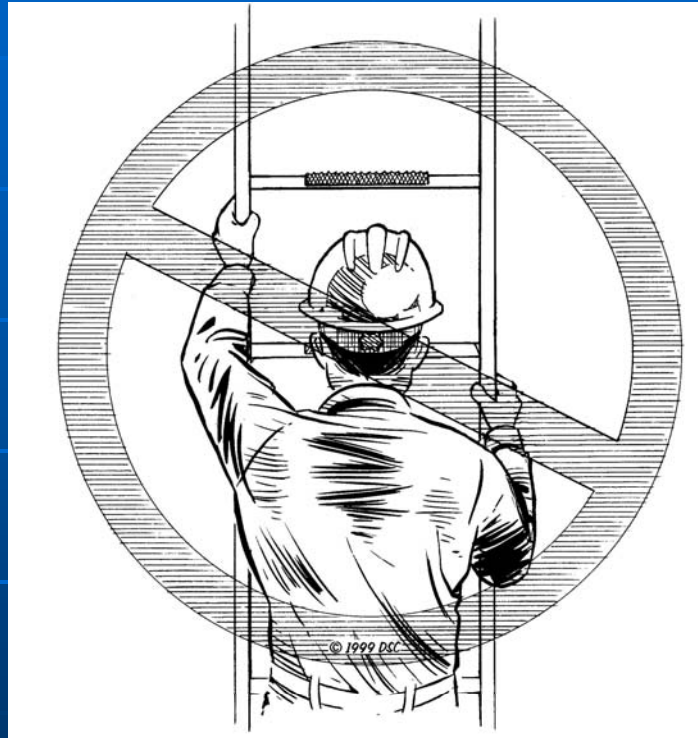
Ellis Ladder Improvements  
[eli@FallSafety.com](mailto:eli@FallSafety.com)



## c. What to hold at heights (if you fall):



Rungs  
yes



Side rails  
– not  
reliable

Young, Justin G. et al, *Biomechanics of Hand/Handhold Coupling and Factors Affecting the Capacity to Hang On*.  
Doctoral Dissertation, Department of Industrial and Operations  
Engineering, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, December 2010.

**Hold Ladder Side Rails at your peril**



# d. Three Point Control: Analysis and Recommendations

White Paper

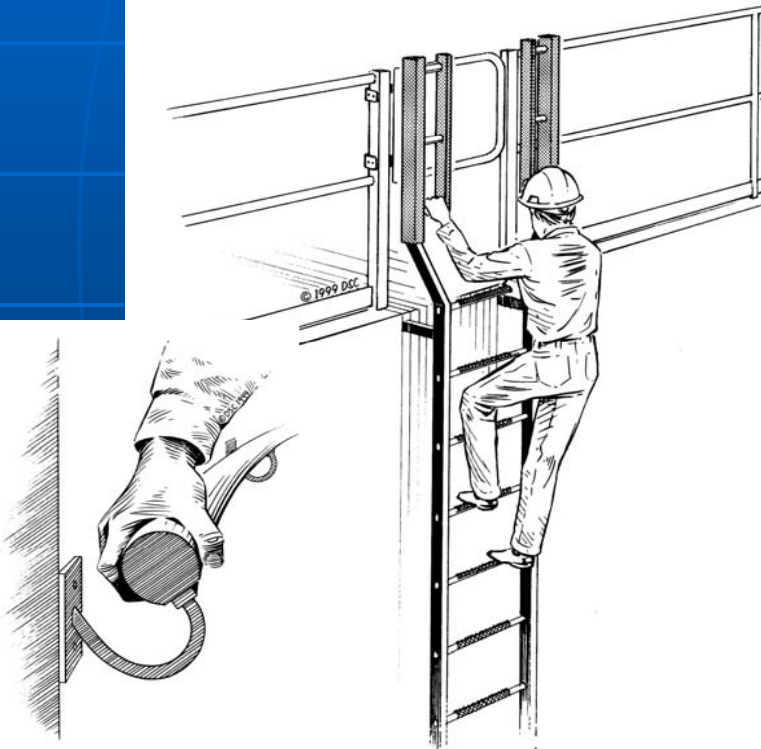
[www.FallSafety.com/  
whatsnew.cfm](http://www.FallSafety.com/whatsnew.cfm)



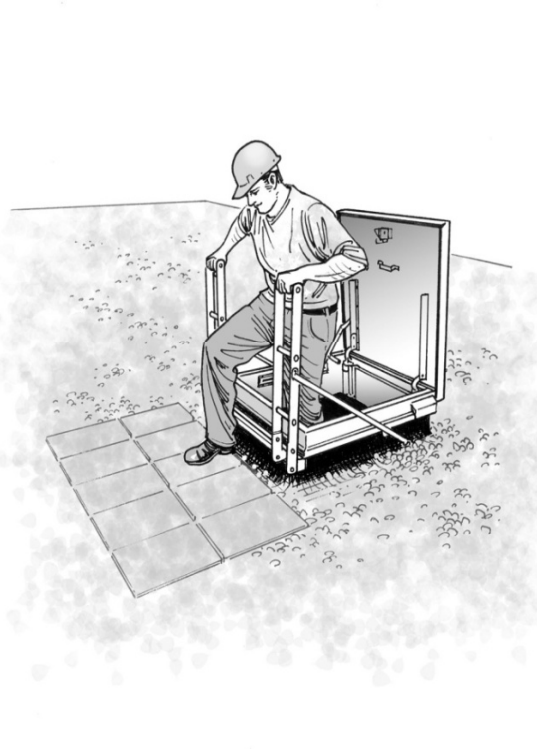
# Three Point Control

Must Hold Engineered Horizontal grab bars, rungs

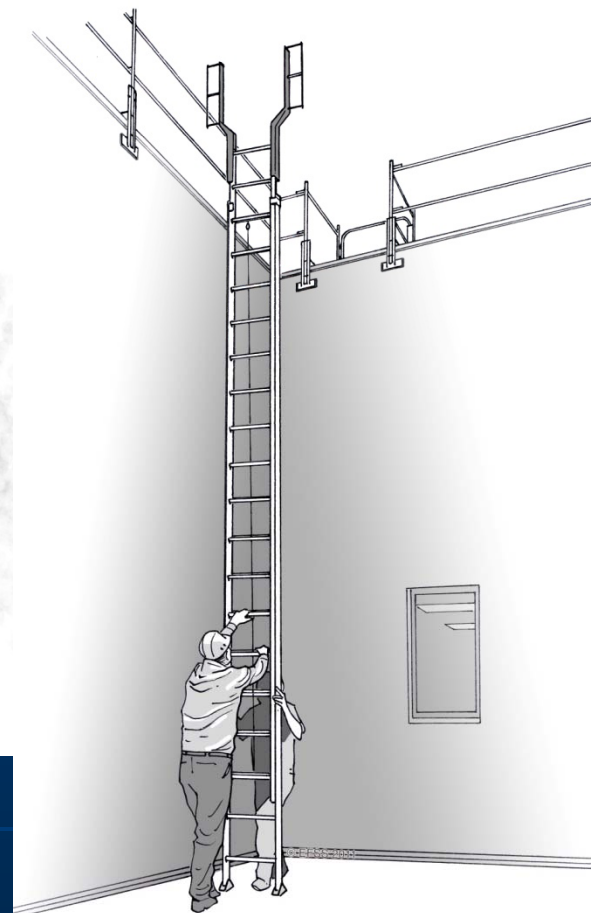
- Ladders: the product w/greatest fall injuries



Two stair rails held



Fixed Ladder Horizontal Grab Bar (Rung) Ext'n



Roof Hatch Walk in/out

# e. Portable Ladder Walk Thru extension fits to each side rail

Falls from accessing upper levels  
with ladders: 3 ft extension solved;  
no step-around ladder hazard



## f. Consider new methods of Access and Fall Protection

### ■ Platform Nets

Pioneer: Dr. Marco Einhaus, [www.bg-metall.de](http://www.bg-metall.de)

[www.isfp.org](http://www.isfp.org) to see his recent paper  
Welding flash hazard addressed with inspection procedure

# Platform Nets

Walking working surface  
Access and FP



eg S. African World Cup Soccer  
stadiums built this way in 2009

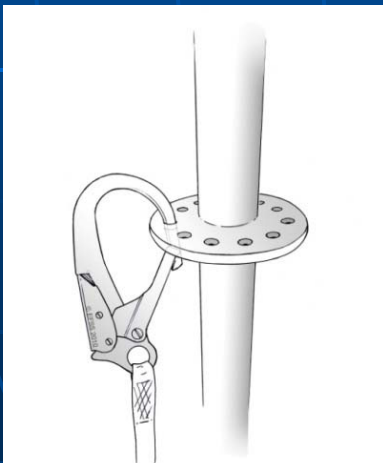
This is **not** like chain-link fencing

# g. Snaphook Gates: Check Equip't Now!

- Post 2007 Gates **3600 lbs** min.
- Pre 2007 Gates **220 lbs** (Two Hundred Twenty)
- Gates get bent due to incompatibility
- Employers should make all anchors compatible w/snaps Note: Weak nose still exists

Weak nose

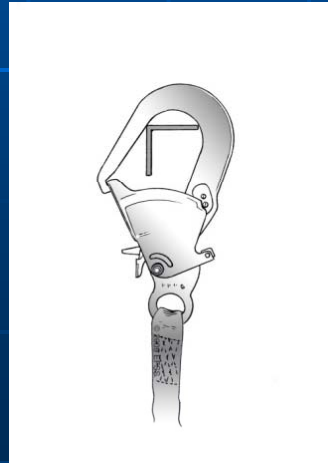
Weak gate



Z359.1-2007

Weak nose?

Strong gate



Weak nose

Weak gate

Nose opens

Z359.1-1992(R1999)

# What about Snaphooks?

- Z359.0 through Z359.4 all new in 2007 except for Z359.1 Snaphook gates 3600 lbs v. 220/350lbs)
- Z359.2 Managed Fall Protection Program: 3600 lbs Gate
  - fall protection planning
  - minimum training

Ellis Recommendation:

- A10.32 "old": Don't use this Std!
- Use only Z359.12-2009 compliant snaphooks

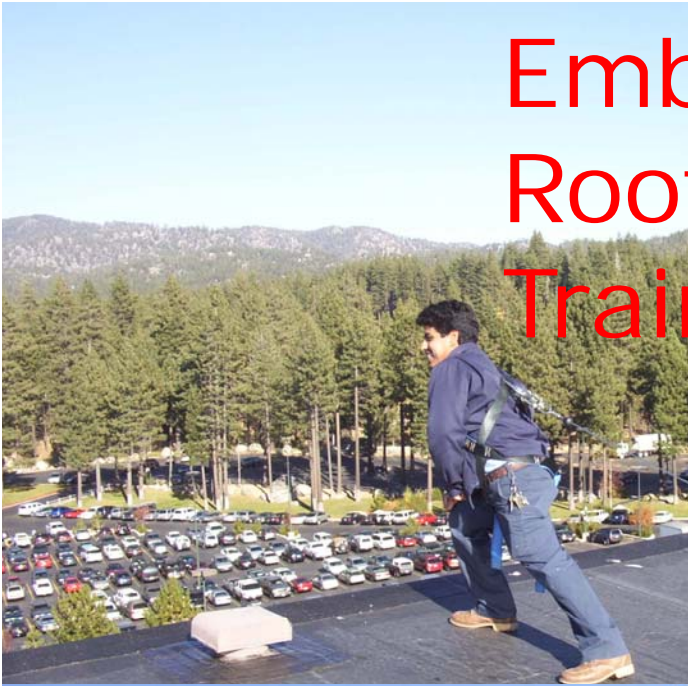


# 7. Multiemployer Sites

- Summit Construction case is benchmark for GC or CM duty
- One CM person onsite is sufficient
- Help Subcontractors create anchorages
- Criteria for anchors: create templates or refer sub to structural engineer
- Training



# Embassy Suites Reno Roof Fall System Training



Harness suspension training

# 8. Transportation: Stationary Vehicle Falls

- OSHA Alliance Construction Roundtable: Steel Construction Flatbed Unloading
- First Draft Design Solution available

BLS 2010:  
76 work fatalities  
from Stationary  
Trucks and Trailers



# 9. Fall Management

## Design-Based Safety

- Dave MacCollum: “Construction Safety Engineering Principles” McGraw Hill 2007
  - A Hazard has three modes:
    - **Dormant** – No people around
    - **Armed** – People around
    - **Active** – Fall onset: Too Late to Stop

Matrix: Multiple Solutions

# A Tool to recognize ALL Worksite Hazards

Recognized Hazard / Solutions	Eliminate		Guard		Safety Factor		Redundancy		Reliability
	List Hazard	Safety Sol'n	List Hazard	Safety Sol'n	List Hazard	Safety Sol'n	List Hazard	Safety Sol'n	Admin
<b>Natural</b>	Human Factors. Falls								
<b>Structural/ Mechanical</b>									
<b>Electrical</b>									
<b>Chemical</b>									
<b>Radiant Energy</b>	Fire								
<b>Biological</b>									
<b>Artificial Intelligence</b>									

Natural Hazards include Gravity



# 10. Summary & Challenge

- Sell additional safety to leave in place that your crews can use
- Work with the Design Team to promote Hazard Elimination methods from the start
- Remember you and architect are working for the same client & have same interests
- Hazard Elimination by design v. harness systems costs are equal after est. ten years

# Q & A

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[www.FallSafety.com](http://www.FallSafety.com) ref: Archives/What's New