

FALL RESCUE



“The employer shall provide for prompt rescue of employees in the event of a fall or shall assure that employees are able to rescue themselves.”

OSHA Standard 1926.502(d)(20)



You’ve done all the right things. Your employees working at heights are protected by personal fall arrest systems and they follow best practices for maintenance and repair of that equipment. You hope it never happens, but what if the worst does? Are you adequately prepared to retrieve a person who is suspended in a personal protective system?

Often employees are rendered unable to perform self-rescue because of sustained injuries, incorrect equipment use, or their surroundings. Orthostatic intolerance, or suspension trauma, can occur within minutes, causing the suspended individual to experience dizziness, nausea, altered heart rate, or loss of vision. In many areas, emergency management services may not have an adequate response time, the proper equipment, or the proper training to respond effectively. Each year the media illustrates this, reporting stories of workers suspended and in need of rescue. A recent example is this maintenance worker in [Houston](#), who was left dangling for almost an hour as rescuers were forced to use creative methods after their ladders proved too short to reach him.

Having a rescue plan in place is critical to both meeting OSHA’s standard and ensuring a fallen worker’s peace of mind, but many companies overlook this critical preparatory step. A formal rescue plan should include detailed response measures for self, assisted, and multiple-person rescues and include the rescue equipment involved in each scenario. Training and practice are also important to ensure that workers are confident and practiced with the rescue equipment and plans.

RETTEW’s Safety Consulting group can help you develop a rescue plan, provide staff training, and select specialty equipment to meet your fall rescue needs. We also offer on-site assistance to enact immediate rescue on high-risk projects. Our indoor training center is fully equipped to provide your employees a hands-on learning experience. To learn more about our fall protection services, please check out the video link to the right. To inquire about how we can assist your company with fall prevention and fall protection compliance, please contact Kristen Morgret, CSP, at 717-516-7534.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

- 8/11 SafeLand Basic Safety Orientation
- 8/12 HAZWOPER, 8-Hour Refresher
- 8/19 First Aid/CPR/AED/BBP, Initial
- 9/12-15 OSHA Construction Outreach, 30-Hour
- 9/16 National Safety Council - Defensive Driving
- 9/19-21 HAZWOPER Technician, 24-Hour
- 9/19-23 HAZWOPER Site Worker, 40-Hour
- 9/23 Permit-Required Confined Space

Please visit our website for a full list of [upcoming classes](#).

FALL PROTECTION



[View Fall Protection Video](#)

Contact us with questions or to schedule training!

- ▶ Luke Lazar, CSP
717-516-7535
llazar@rettew.com
- ▶ Kelly Kramer, CECD, HEM
717-516-7537
kkramer@rettew.com

RETTEW