



## Safety Bulletin - September 2019

### Work at Height - Rescue Preparedness

Work at height remains a high-risk activity in our day to day operations, we tend to forget to have the basic requirements for an emergency in place when dealing with the unexpected. The aim of any emergency preparedness plan is to establish and identify the areas of concern, including rescue plans and the actual implementation thereof.

Two scenarios were held at Gravity's premises in order to measure the difference between being prepared and unprepared:

Scenario 1	Scenario 2	
The rescuers were waiting in a separate building, not knowing what to expect. In the building next door, the casualties were already suspended in different locations, about 6m from the floor.	The rescuers were in the same building, watching the technicians (casualties) climb. The casualties were once again suspended in different locations, about 6m from the floor.	
Setup for the scenario: 1. Name of the casualty for each rescuer was known 2. PPE for the rescuer was scattered on the floor 3. Rescue equipment was scattered on the floor 4. Casualties were not allowed to assist 5. The aim was to rescue & lower the casualty safely to the floor	Setup for the scenario: 1. Name of the casualty for each rescuer was known 2. Rescuer was already wearing full PPE 3. Rescue kit was already assembled and bagged next to the structure 4. Casualties were not allowed to assist 5. The aim was to rescue & lower the casualty safely to the floor	
Time differences		
Best time: 05m59s Worst time: 12m48s Average time: 09m30s	03m26s 04m03s 04m00s	Best time: 02m33s Worst time: 08m45s Average time: 05m30s

As the above results indicate, it is always a better and a safer option to be properly prepared. This can be achieved on site by ensuring that:

- A competent supervisor as per the site and task is available and on site
- Proper planning has been conducted by the supervisor as well as the rest of the team
- The rescuer(s) are in possession of a site-specific rescue plan and that it is discussed with the entire team before commencing work
- The rescue kits are checked and that all components are present and assembled
- The anchoring of the rescue system is discussed with the technician relative to the position of the possible rescue
- The team size for the specific rescue has been established, and the responsible rescuer(s) must be on site for the duration of the task
- The team members are adequately trained and conversant with the rescue procedure
- Rescue techniques are practised on a regular basis to keep the team skills current

It is of the utmost importance that a rescue is properly planned for and discussed to ensure that it can be implemented as quickly as possible

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