

GRAVITY

ELEVATING SOLUTIONS

THE IMPORTANCE OF LIFELINES CONSIDERING THE DANGERS OF CAGES

FACTS:

1. Ladder Cages on fixed ladders do not stop a fall from occurring.
2. When a fall occurs, ladder cages funnel a fall down to the ground or next level and in some cases more life changing injuries occur as the person strikes the ladder cage and rungs on the way down.
3. Ladder cages hinder rescues and increases rescue complexity, posing a risk for additional injury or suspension trauma to the already injured person.
4. Ladder cages were developed as a means to limit falls, before advanced fall protection systems existed. But fall protection systems have long since overtaken ladder cages and are much safer, easier to use and appropriate on fixed ladders.

THE WAY FORWARD:

Fixed ladders should be fitted with rated lifelines and should not have ladder cages.

COUNTRIES THAT HAVE ADOPTED THE LIFELINE PROTOCOL:

1. AUSTRALIA
 - In 2011 it was recommended that lifelines be used when climbing fixed ladders
2. USA
 - New fixed ladders: Each fixed ladder installed on and after November 19, 2018, is equipped with a personal fall arrest system or a ladder safety system;
 - Final deadline: As of November 18, 2036, all fixed ladders are equipped with a personal fall arrest system or a ladder safety system. Example: Ladder Vertical Lifeline System
3. CANADA
 - Canadian centre for occupational health and safety recommends the use of appropriate safety devices while climbing fixed ladders
4. UNITED KINGDOM:
 - Health and Safety Executive HSE: "Dutyholders" or responsible persons are advised to review their risk assessments and consider if additional fall protection is required (on fixed ladders) or if an alternative means of access is supplied

SOLUTION:

Gravity Vertical Lifeline System

EN353-1:2014 | PPE Regulation 2016/425



OSHA 19010.29 | AS/NZS 1891.3:2020
ANSI A14.3



The Gravity Vertical System is a vertical safety line that can be installed quickly and easily. The Vertical System is modular and provides integrable anchors, making it the ideal companion for works on pylons, windmills and any vertical structure.

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