

## ALIGNING ESSENTIAL TRAINING WITH EQUIPMENT USE

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When personnel intend to use personal protective equipment (PPE) and other equipment to control potential fall-related risks associated with accessing, climbing and working at height, it is vital that they know how to use that equipment properly. The proper use of equipment is essential to ensure safety. Knowing how to use the equipment correctly implies that users have completed a process during which they were equipped with the necessary skills, knowledge and experience to operate the equipment. It is, therefore, essential that personnel are trained, assessed as competent and given written instructions which enable them to select, use, maintain and carry out periodic examinations of PPE or other equipment correctly. It is also crucial that personnel are aware of the limitations, precautions and dangers of the misuse of equipment.

General equipment and machinery regulations stipulate that a competent equipment user must be fully aware of the dangers attached to using the equipment and must be conversant with the precautionary measures to be taken to control such dangers. Issuing the correct equipment without user training is as disadvantageous as issuing inappropriate equipment to work teams. Equipment and training must always be implemented together.

Using equipment or machinery without training and assessment will result in unsafe acts and conditions.

For example:

**Scenario 1:** Using a Shock-Absorbing Double-Lanyard on an inclined structural member.

Figure 1: Causing a sliding anchor which increases the risk of serious injury.

**Scenario 2:** Company "Poor-Plan" purchases a hoist and lifting tackle for their team without the necessary training, causing loss of the load and resulting in serious injury, death and damage to property.

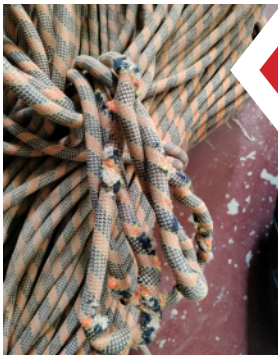


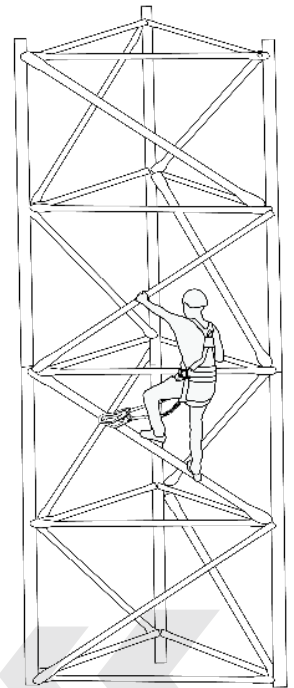
Figure 2: Rope cut/damaged due to improper edge protection.



Figure 3: Use of a wire rope and a lack of maintenance resulted in bucket plate and pulley axle failure, as well as loss of load.



Figure 4: Textile cover damage due to insufficient sharp edge protection.



When work teams are provided with the correct equipment and proper user training, equipment value and work efficiency can be maintained, and incidents can be prevented. In cases where work teams undergo proper training, they understand the risks of equipment use and operate the machines correctly for a better and higher quality end product.

