

# FALL PROTECTION EQUIPMENT INSPECTIONS

THE FALL PROTECTION EQUIPMENT IS THE LINK BETWEEN YOU AND THE GROUND. IT IS VERY IMPORTANT TO COMPLETE THOROUGH INSPECTIONS OF YOUR FALL PROTECTION EQUIPMENT PRIOR TO USE TO ENSURE THAT IT IS IN GOOD WORKING ORDER.

- WHEN TO INSPECT MY HARNESS AND LANYARD
- HOW TO INSPECT THE WEBBING (BODY OF BELT, HARNESS OR LANYARD)
- HOW TO INSPECT THE BUCKLES
- HOW TO CLEAN EQUIPMENT
- DAMAGED EQUIPMENT



**BC Forest Safety**

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# FALL PROTECTION EQUIPMENT INSPECTIONS



## WHEN DO I INSPECT MY HARNESS AND LANYARD?

The employer should perform regular equipment inspections on lifelines, harnesses, lanyards and SRL's to ensure that their gear is up to date and compliant with the proper safety standards. Fall protection equipment should be personally inspected before each use and at least once a year by a jobsite competent person (or more frequently if required by the manufacturer).

## HOW DO YOU INSPECT THE WEBBING (BODY OF BELT, HARNESS OR LANYARD)?

- Inspect the entire surface of webbing for damage. Beginning at one end, bend the webbing in an inverted "U." Holding the body side of the belt toward you, grasp the belt with your hands six to eight inches apart.
- Watch for frayed edges, broken fibers, pulled stitches, cuts or chemical damage. Broken webbing strands generally appear as tufts on the webbing surface.
- Replace according to manufacturers' guidelines.

## HOW DO YOU INSPECT THE BUCKLE?

- Inspect for loose, distorted or broken grommets. Do not cut or punch additional holes in waist strap or strength members.
- Check belt without grommets for torn or elongated holes that could cause the buckle tongue to slip.
- Inspect the buckle for distortion and sharp edges. The outer and center bars must be straight. Carefully check corners and attachment points of the center bar. They should overlap the buckle frame and move freely back and forth in their sockets. The roller should turn freely on the frame.
- Check that rivets are tight and cannot be moved. The body side of the rivet base and outside rivet burr should be flat against the material. Make sure the rivets are not bent.
- Inspect for pitted or cracked rivets that show signs of chemical corrosion.

## HOW DO I CLEAN MY EQUIPMENT?

Basic care increases the life of the unit and contributes to its performance. Follow the manufacturer's instructions on how to care and clean the equipment. Steps may include:

- Wipe off all surface dirt with a sponge dampened in plain water. Rinse the sponge and squeeze it dry. Dip the sponge in a mild solution of water and commercial soap or detergent. Work up a thick lather with a vigorous back and forth motion.
- Rinse the webbing in clean water.
- Wipe the belt dry with a clean cloth. Hang freely to dry.
- Dry the belt and other equipment away from direct heat, and out of long periods of sunlight.
- Store in a clean, dry area, free of fumes, sunlight, corrosive materials, sharp edges, or vibration and in such a way that it does not warp or distort the belt.

## WHAT SHOULD YOU DO IF YOU FIND YOUR FALL PROTECTION EQUIPMENT IS DAMAGED?

1. Tag out of service
2. Report it to your supervisor
3. Ask for alternative equipment to use



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