



# H S E

HEALTH SAFETY ENVIRONMENTAL



Alert #: SA 06-22

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## *Fall Prevention & Protection*

Falls result in more than 300 construction worker deaths and thousands of injuries annually in the United States. Incidents such as these are the result of work conducted on or near unprotected edges, roof and floor openings, unstable or unfit scaffolds, ladders and structural steel.

### **What is a fall hazard?**

A fall hazard is anything in the work environment that could cause an unintended loss of balance or bodily support, which results in a fall.

GIS's HS&E Department has recently noticed an increase in events in which employees failed to recognize the need for fall protection or failed to utilize the appropriate fall protection.

Remember that when a hazard cannot be eliminated with guardrails or safety nets, personal protective equipment such as a fall restraint system, personal fall-arrest system or work positioning system should be utilized.

- A fall restraint system prevents the worker from falling by not allowing the worker to reach any unprotected side or edge.
- A personal fall arrest system is used to arrest an employee in a fall from a working level and consist of several components including anchorages, connectors, lanyards and deceleration devices.

Both systems described above require the use of a **full-body harness** and always remember that the vast majority of fall hazards can be identified and eliminated or controlled before they result in injuries.

### **Other Considerations:**

- Always work within the parameters of your permit and/or JSEA. If you can not accomplish your assigned task as outlined in your permit and/or JSEA, **STOP THE JOB** and reevaluate the conditions. If a new task or job step must be used to accomplish the job scope the JSEA should be updated with the appropriate job steps, hazards, mitigations and controls listed.
- **NEVER** under any circumstance utilize process equipment or instrumentation as a climbing device or anchorage point for a fall protection system. Process equipment is required for physical or chemical methods of mechanical and/or thermal treatment or processing of a raw material or product.

Process equipment is not designed nor intended to be utilized for climbing, foot holds, anchorage points or weight bearing of a worker. Failure to follow this guideline could result in damage to the process equipment and instrumentation, causing the worker to fall and the unintended discharge of a potentially hazardous product into work area.

*Report all incidents immediately to the GIS Hotline 1-855-543-5163.*



**SAFETY ALERT**