

March 2018

'Grow electrical and low voltage market share while enhancing customer satisfaction and total value'

CURRENT RIR RATE: 0.0 CURRENT DART: 0.0

Job Site Safety

Zero Recordable injuries in February! Another great month by all employees working safely.

This month's job site topic will focus on Fall Protection. A very important part of our operations, and one that can have deadly consequences if not followed properly.

Let's be honest, no one wants to wear fall protection. Harnesses can be annoying, self-retracting lanyards can cause strain, but these devices also save lives daily. All it takes is that 'I'm only going to be exposed to a fall for a few seconds' mentality of not wearing your gear, and the results can be fatal. We must wear proper PPE at all times!

In addition to proper training, a major focus in 2018 will be on the PPE and inspections. Moving forward, we are going to set the expiration date of any product that has webbing to be 5 years. This would include harnesses, lanyards, and various connection devices. This is largely an internal decision, as there is no 100% right answer to this.

OSHA and ANSI revert to the manufacturers to set their own guidelines. While it seems to change every few years, most of them are saying between 5-7 years. Then there are companies like MSA who state that as long as it's inspected, it can last forever.

That's just far too risky. Much like the ARC gear from last month's newsletter, it's often the damage we can't see to the fibers that are the concern. Today's products are made with high density polymers, but degradation still happens. Moisture, wear and tear, UV, dirt, and other contaminants can all break down the tensile strength.

Fall Protection must be inspected prior to each use. This **does not** need to be documented. This is simply to ensure that the equipment has no noticeable damage. Be looking for frays, holes, damaged/missing parts. If there are any defects found, the piece needs taken out of service immediately.

Moving forward, Rob Plesich will also do an annual inspection of each piece, which will be linked to an inspection form. These will be tracked by the serial number of the particular piece, and saved on the N Drive.

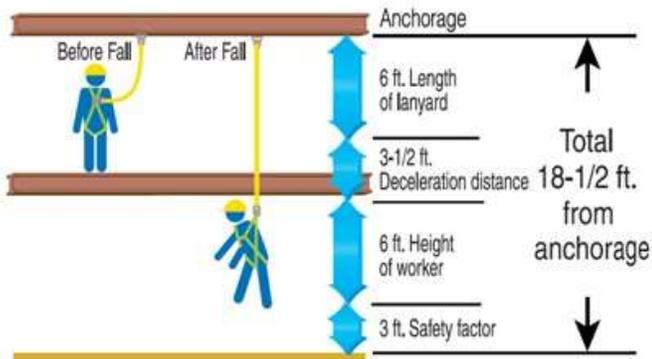
If any piece has lost its identification tags, or the serial number is unidentifiable, it must be taken out of service immediately.

Also, we really shouldn't be writing on harnesses. I know they tend to grow legs and walk off if they aren't labeled, but writing on them causes other compliance problems. Underwriters Laboratories(UL) and DuPont did studies showing that some marker brands can degrade fibers and tensile strength. In fact, the only brand UL approved is Sharpie Markers. It can be tough to prove what brand we used to mark on the harnesses, so it's best just not to write on them. We can mark on any of the plastic portions though, so if we must, put our company name on those areas only.

Fall Distance is also a concern that is often overlooked. We aren't necessarily safe just because we put on a harness and a lanyard. Depending on the height we are working at, a 6' lanyard would be too long to decelerate our fall, and we would still hit the ground. Self-Retracting Lanyards(SRL) are always the best option, as they have a clutch which activates immediately in a fall.

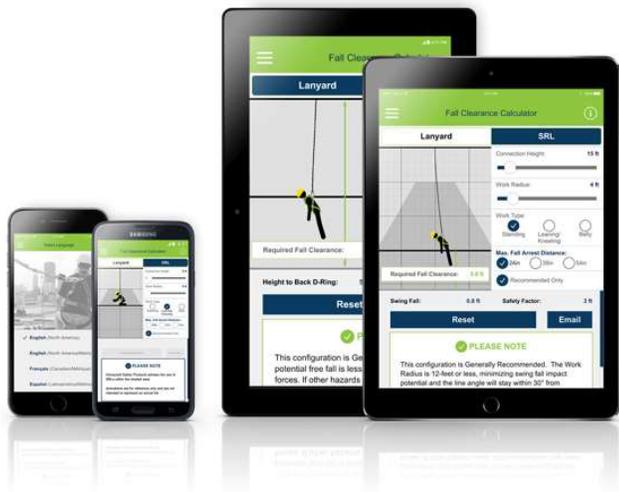
Shown below is a good representation of how much fall distances can ACTUALLY end up being.

Calculating Your Potential Fall Distance



Sure the worker was tied off with a 6' lanyard, but when all of the factors are added in, it's actually an 18.5' clearance they need. SRL's take out much of this equation as they catch you immediately.

Miller Fall Protection has a great app you can utilize at no cost. By entering in some basic information about the fall hazards, it will provide you with clearance data. Foremen, I'd highly recommend downloading the app to your company iPads/phones, it's called Miller Fall Clearance in the app store.



As always, when in doubt, reach out to Rob Plesich with any questions. I have certifications through Miller as well as DBI, and can always help with planning/designing fall protection systems.

Safety At Home

This month's safety at home involves Fire Protection. We discussed the hazards of space heaters last month, but what happens when their actually is fire? We have to be prepared and know how to react in order to assure our safety and that of the community.

Top Tips for Fire Safety

- Install smoke alarms on every level of your home, inside bedrooms and outside sleeping areas.
- Test smoke alarms every month. If they're not working, change the batteries.
- Talk with all family members about a fire escape plan and practice the plan twice a year.
- If a large fire occurs in your home, GET EVERYONE OUT, STAY OUT and CALL FOR HELP. Never go back inside for anything. I know we want to save heirlooms or expensive belongings, but it's not worth the deadly risk.

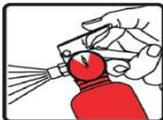
It is highly recommended to have a fire extinguisher in the home as well. While we are not trained firefighters, and we are not supposed to ever 'fight' a large fire, smaller ones can be immediately contained by an extinguisher.

Only use an extinguisher if:

- All residents of the home have been evacuated to safety
- The fire department has been notified
- There is a clear exit behind the person using the extinguisher

To operate an extinguisher, always follow the PASS method:

Remember the **P A S S** Word

| | |
|---|---|
| <p>Pull</p> <p>Pull the pin (or other motion) to unlock the extinguisher.</p> |  |
| <p>Aim</p> <p>Aim at the base (bottom) of the fire and stand 6 - 10 feet away.</p> |  |
| <p>Squeeze</p> <p>Squeeze the lever to discharge the agent.</p> |  |
| <p>Sweep</p> <p>Sweep the spray from left to right until the flames are totally extinguished.</p> |  |

While there are various types/weights of extinguishers, there are four common classes that we would really have exposure to. It's imperative to have the right one for your surroundings. Listed below is a basic outline.

Fire Classes

| | |
|--|---|
| <p>A Trash Wood Paper</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • wood • cloth • paper • rubber • many plastics | <p>C Electrical Equipment</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • energized electrical equipment |
| <p>B Liquids Grease</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • gasoline • oil • grease • tar • oil-based paint • lacquer • flammable gases | <p>COMBUSTIBLE</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • magnesium • sodium • potassium • titanium • zirconium • other flammable metals |

A few easy steps can help ensure the safety of your family and your possessions.

Employee Recognition

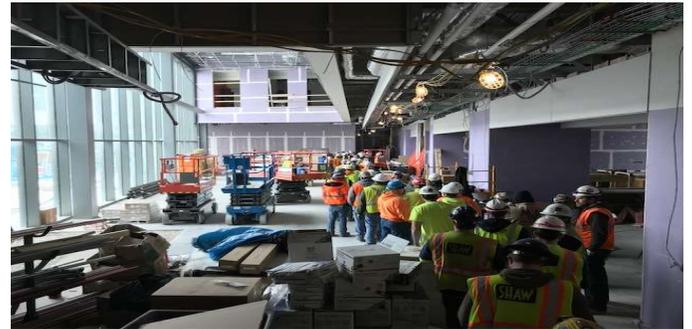
This month we want to give proper recognition to our crews at the Wayne State Mitch Ilitch School of Business project. This project has seen lots of unique safety hazards, tight deadlines, and working in very close

proximity with numerous trades, some of whom don't live up to the same safety standards that we do.

Our crew has continued to keep their composure, continued to work safely, and not shy away from bringing issues to me concerning other contractors.

Christman provided the entire project with a Safety Luncheon which included barbecue, deserts, t-shirts and safety glasses.

Keep up the great work, and continue to stay safe out there!

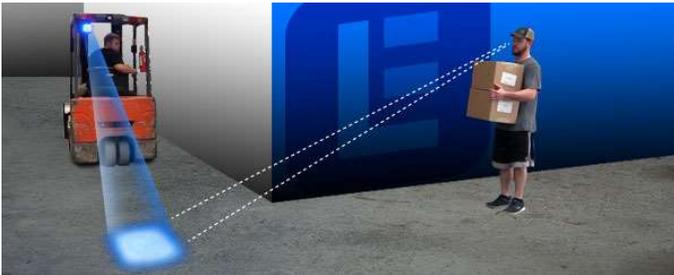


WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

We had another great month of safety ideas from both the field and office. Keep them coming in to help ensure our team remains safe at work and home.

This month's winner is Mark Daniels. His concern involved Forklift-Pedestrian Safety in the warehouse, particularly lack of visibility around corners. Our drivers are extremely safe, they always beep the horn and utilize a strobe light while

in use. But those are ambient means of alerting pedestrians, meaning it can be difficult to tell exactly where the forklift is coming from, and at what pace.



To alleviate this concern, we are installing a Forklift Blue Light. This light shines a 'blue disk' in front of the forklift's path. It allows pedestrians to see that a truck is approaching and from a particular direction. If you see a blue disk coming from around a corner, STOP, and allow the forklift driver to approach until the hazard has passed, or the driver has acknowledged you.

This will be especially helpful for office employees and visitors that aren't as used to the forklift traffic patterns in the shop. Though we only have one forklift unit, it's not used all day every day, and our drivers are trained to be extremely safe while operating the forklift; this will help to ensure we avoid injuries or property damage in the future.

The blue light is bright enough to catch your attention, but it is not harmful and would not hurt/do any damage to your eyes should you ever get directly in its path.

Stay Safe out there!

As always, ideas can be submitted:

- In person to Rob Plesich at my desk or in the field
- Via phone to Rob (248) 228-2018 or (614) 535-8779
- Via email to Rob: rplesich@shawelectric.com

