

Falling situations that have led to serious accidents or even to death:

- The safety harness was left in the back of the car, instead of being used.
- A builder fell from a personal lift. He was wearing a safety harness, but it was not attached to anything.
- A component installer fell because a stair component collapsed. Another worker had his safety harness properly in use, but not the worker who fell.
- A young worker was tempted into taking a falling risk. Is it worth to be a “tough guy”?
- During an apartment house renovation a worker was doing a job at the gutters without a safety harness holding on to a 10 cm high snow barrier.

Situations where a safety harness has saved lives:

- At the collapse of a hollow-core slab component installers with the help of safety harnesses.
- A scaffold installer’s foot slipped while drawing a cover over a roof truss. The installer fell 1,5 m but the safety harness saved him.

Scaffold Thursday

10 Questions To Prevent Falling



Foto Karri Rissa

Ask yourself these questions

before starting any job, especially if it involves the risk of falling.

- 1.** Every year 4-5 builders lose their lives because of falling. Every day at least one serious accident occurs. Every other hour a builder falls. **Do I want to belong to this crowd?**
- 2.** From where do people fall? Most common places people fall from are arch boarders, gaps, machine worktops, personal lifts and ladders. During renovation work collapsing of structures also cause risk of falling. **Do I trust my luck, or do I secure that the falling protection is sufficiently safe?**
- 3.** Falling can be prevented technically by using protective barriers, covering gaps and using protective nets. Also the tidiness and orderliness affect the probability of falling situations. **Is the technical protection sufficient and implementable?**
- 4.** Sometimes personal falling protection is the only solution and an additional backup to prevent falling. **Do you have access to safety harnesses at your workplace?**
- 5.** A part of a safe job performance is the ability to identify danger. **Have I by myself, or with my supervisor, determined the risks of falling and the solutions for eliminating them?**
- 6.** Do I bring my safety harness when going to the workplace, so I do not need to fetch it later on? **I secure the use of other safety devices.**
- 7.** **Do I know the proper way to use a safety harness?** I familiarise myself with the instructions of the safety harness and practise how to use it before entering the workplace. I secure my skill together with the supervisor.
- 8.** **Do I know where to attach the line of the harness safely?** All joints do not bear the required burden. Determine the joints together with the supervisor.
- 9.** If the falling despite of all occurs, whew! Luckily the harness is on. **How is the worker hanging on to the harness going to be saved as soon and as safely as possible?**
- 10.** **Do you care for other worker´s safety and interfere with risk prone situations by pointing them out ?** By interfering with defective and dangerous working methods you might earn a “life-saving medal”.

Identify the risks – Check the falling prevention