



INNOVATIVE FALL PROTECTION

"YOUR LIFELINE TO SAFETY"

FALL PROTECTION FACTS

- There are about 26,000 lost-time accidents resulting from falls from heights every year in Canada. *source Alberta Government
- Every 3 days a worker dies as a result of a fall from height, survivors of these accidents often sustain the most serious injuries resulting in significant claims, personal suffering and business losses. *source Alberta Government
- Falls cause the largest number of fatalities; about 28 percent in the construction industry per year. *source U.S. Dept of labor
- An OSHA study estimated good safety and health programs can save \$4 to \$6 for every \$1 invested. *source U.S. dept of labor
- Benefits of safe worksites can include “reduced downtime, more stable workforce, higher employee morale, and **lower insurance and W.C.B. costs.** *source Canada Occupational Safety & Health.
- In 2002, Alberta firms that were certified under *Partners in Injury Reduction* shared approx. \$37,000,000 in refunds, while enjoying preferential insurance rates and other savings. This was all due to better than normal incident rates. *source Canada Occupational Safety & Health.
- Canada Occupational Safety and Health Regulations, for fall protection systems, say “**Every employer shall provide a fall-protection system to any employee who is (doing work) ...2.4m above any moving parts of machinery or any other surface or anything else that could cause injury**” *source Canada Occupational Safety & Health.
- On December 4, 2002, the maximum penalty for a first offence under the Occupational Health and Safety Act was increased from a fine of \$150,000 and/or six months imprisonment for each charge, to \$500,000 and/or six months imprisonment for each charge. *source Canada Occupational Safety & Health.
- Every day, 80 people are injured from falls at work. On average, each injury results in 4 weeks of lost time. *source WSIB (Workplace Safety and Insurance Board)
- A 5% reduction in the number of falls **will save 120 lives and \$180 million in injury costs.** *source National Safety Movement

- Regulatory agencies make it quite clear that it is the employer's responsibility to develop a fall protection program that complies with mandated regulations. The most effective programs are those where employers work closely with their workers to identify fall hazards and to jointly develop a comprehensive fall protection program that either eliminates fall hazards or provides appropriate protection against them. It should be noted that regulatory agencies have steadily increased fines for noncompliance and negligence.

In short, a comprehensive fall protection program not only saves lives and reduces injuries, but also saves money and makes good business sense.

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