

Great Western Painting

Policy Statement

Compliance with 29 CFR 1926.502(d)(20)

29 CFR 1926.502(d)(20) states: “The employer shall provide for prompt rescue of employees in the event of a fall or shall assure that employees are able to rescue themselves.”

Per OSHA interpretation letters [J. Nigel Ellis (May 11, 1999) & Charles Hill (August 14, 2000)], the hazard being addressed by 29 CFR 1926.502(d)(20) is being suspended by the fall arrest system after an arrested fall.

Prompt rescue is not defined, but it does imply that rescue be performed quickly – in time to prevent serious injury to the suspended worker.

As a matter of policy, under no circumstances will our employees attempt to perform a self-rescue.

The rationale for this policy is as follows:

1. Expecting a suspended employee to perform self-rescue presupposes that the employee is:
 - a. of clear mind after the fall, and,
 - b. in excellent physical condition, and
 - c. has not sustained any injuries from the fall arrest, and
 - d. did not have a medical event that caused the fall in the first place (fainting, for example).
2. Because our employees are not professional rescue persons, in depth self-rescue training would be required and practice self-rescue exercises performed for each possible combination of fall scenarios.
3. Specialize self-rescue equipment and training on that equipment would be required.
4. Self-rescue is not required by 29 CFR 1926.502(d)(20).

Prompt Rescue Procedures:

As a matter of policy, an employee performing work requiring a personal fall arrest system **will not work alone**. He/she will be in sight of another employee using a personal fall arrest system or be monitored by a safety monitor whose sole job will be to ensure there is not a fall event that goes unnoticed.

Prior to performing work requiring a personal fall arrest system, the Safety Program Administrator, or designated competent person, will:

1. assess the possible fall scenarios, and,

2. take inventory of in-house equipment that is readily available for possible rescue (ladders, forklifts, mobile scaffold, etc.), and,
3. be prepared to implement a plan of action utilizing our in-house equipment should a fall occur, **or**
4. call an emergency rescue service and give them:
 - a. our exact location.
 - b. a quick synopsis of what happened.
 - c. the height of the suspended person.
 - d. known or suspected injuries.

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