



August Meeting:

Lunch: Jimm Cooper, Ref Chem

Brown Bag Topic & Speaker: Fall Protection/Tying Off – Mark Jumper,
Performance Insulation Contractors

A lot of accidents could have been prevented if people tie off. Tying off is one of a many things that could help workers keep their lives. But, one must be tied off correctly and with the right type of harness to help further prevent injury. Still, an individual might be injured in the fall, but tying off is better than sudden impact.

1. When and where should you tie off?

- It depends on the kind of work being done and the kind of surface. Cal/OSHA says that if there are no guardrails, you should tie off:
 - When working on **any structure** at a height over 7 1/2 feet, if you might fall:
 - from the perimeter
 - through elevator shafts, other shaftways, or openings
 - from steep sloped surfaces.
 - When working from **thrustouts, trusses, beams, purlins, and plates** at a height over 15 feet.
 - When working on **skeleton steel** of a multistory structure at a height over 15 feet.
 - When working on a **steep roof** (1/3 pitch or steeper) while using pneumatic tools.
 - When working from a **boatswain chair, floating scaffold, needle-beam scaffold** or **suspended scaffold**.

2. If it's not possible to tie off, what should you do?

- If tying off isn't practical for some reason, we must use safety nets instead.

3. If you use fall protection equipment like a safety belt, harness, or lanyard, what do you need to check?

- Make sure you're using the **right equipment for the job**. For example, keep in mind that harnesses give better protection than safety belts.
- Be sure your equipment is **safety-approved**. Look for a label showing that it meets American National Standards Institute (ANSI) safety requirements.
- Use the equipment according to the **manufacturer's instructions**.
- Be sure everything is in **good condition**. **Don't use** the equipment if it isn't. For example, make sure that latches on belts are working properly, and that drop lines are not frayed or worn.
- **Remove from service** any safety belt, lanyard, or drop line that has been subjected to a load in actual use (in other words, if it has broken someone's fall).