M&J GROUP
CONSTRUCTION & ROOFING

TOOLBOX TALKS

#78 | WORKING OVER SOFT LAND SYSTEMS

TEL: 0844 800 3912
EMAIL: MJ@MJCONSTRUCTIONGROUP.CO.UK
WWW.MJCONSTRUCTIONGROUP.CO.UK

M&J GROUP
CONSTRUCTION & ROOFING

TOOL BOX TALK: #78 WORKING OVER SAFETY NETS OR SOFT-LANDING SYSTEMS

REASON Falls from height accounts for 50% of all accidents and deaths within the construction industry.

OUTLINE This talk covers the use of safety nets and soft-landing systems, together with some requirements for installation and rescue.

SAFE USE

- There are many different types of safety nets and soft-landing systems that can be selected to suit particular circumstances. They are not designed to prevent falls, but to minimise the risk of injury after a fall, of either people or materials.
- Safety nets should be fitted as high as possible beneath the work area to minimise the distance of a fall.
- They must be tight enough to minimise sag, when loaded and prevent the load hitting the ground or floor below.
- They must be installed by qualified people and inspected weekly by a competent person.
- Soft-landing systems are usually large bags that are filled with air, via a pump, or a group of smaller pre-packed bags (beanbags), with polystyrene chippings, clipped together by plastic clips. The depth of the bag reduces the distance of the fall and also cushions the fall.
- These systems are known as collective fall-protection measures and are preferred to the use of safety harnesses and lanyards.

MEANS OF RESCUE

1. When safety nets are used, consider how someone will get out of the net if a fall takes places.
2. A means of rescue must be planned and in place from the outset.
3. If a person falls and is not injured they can climb out, but if they are incapacitated they will need to be rescued, preferably from below the net to prevent unnecessary disturbance to the injured person buy rescuers climbing into the net.
4. Soft-landing systems have similar requirements in terms of recovery from a fall but in this case rescue from below is not possible.
5. When using airbags it is possible to slowly reduce the air pressure to gain access that will not disturb a casualty too much. With beanbags which are a little more rigid, boarding could be used it readily available or the bags could be unclipped and removed to a walkway.

INSPECTION

1. Safety nets are individually tagged (identified) have to be inspected weekly (as well as daily pre-user checks) and the inspection had to be recorded.
2. Soft-landing systems should be subjected to daily pre-user checks but these do not have a statutory inspections requirement.
3. Any safety net or soft-landing system that has been subjected to a load (a fall of a person or materials) may have been deformed or unplaced and must be examined before anyone is allowed to work above the area again.
4. Sharp objects are also likely to cause cuts, which would weaken a net or cause deflation of an airbag.

DO YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS FOR ME?

Do you have any further questions? *Ask them now & make notes here.*

_____

_____

_____

_____

THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS AN ACCIDENT SOMEONE, SOMEWHERE DID SOMETHING TO CAUSE IT.

Presented by : _____ Date _____

Presented to : _____ Signature_____