

What is Next for Fall Protection?

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What is Fall Protection?

- A complete range of solutions to the hazards of elevated work
- A hierarchy of controls:
 - Elimination
 - Fall Prevention (Restraint Systems)
 - Fall Arrest & Rescue

A model is needed

Occupational Fatal Injuries 2004

ref BLS

	1991-95 Average	1996	1997-99 Average	2002	2003	2004
OSHA total	6,280 av 94-97	5524	5575	5703
Falls total	562	610	693	719	696	815
Lower level				638	604	732*
- Ladders	87	97	107	126	114	133
- Roofs	130	149	155	143	128	178
- Scaffolds	79	88	92	87	85	89
Falls to Same Level	56	52	57	81	92	65°

*54% construction

4.1 deaths per 100,000

What currently exists that has the potential to fundamentally change Fall Protection?

- 6-10 items from floor
- Prioritize list
- Top items:
 - What are the Benefits? Roadblocks?
 - How do we accelerate this item?
 - How do sell to purse strings?
 - How do we convince workers?

Definitions:

- Mousetrap is a product
- Better mousetrap is a more foolproof product
- Mouse is a trained elevated worker
- Mice are trained elevated workers
- Better mice are better trained workers

Building a Better Mousetrap

- Building a better product (mousetrap)
 - More features, options, adjustability to suit the work conditions
- More equipment hazards are addressed: “Foolproof” factor
 - Free fall of climbing devices using harnesses
 - Y-lanyards producing 24-30 ft falls, “star” fall arrest or system failure
 - New warning systems relating to possible misuse
 - Labels designed to last the lifetime of the in-use product
- Building better workers (mice)
 - A better system with more flexibility, more choices; supervisor trained
- Training of supervisors to certification level
 - Choice of right tools, equipment, fall protection
 - Systems include rescue capability
 - Training of crew, prevention of exceeding level of competence

A Model for Better mousetraps and mice

Better than Fall Protection Systems: Rope Access Systems that include Fall Protection/Rescue

- Management responsibilities defined
- On-site specially trained Competent Person supervisor
- Supervisor recognition of hazards; workers also
- Risk controls reviewed on-site
- Operators (workers) trained to a 2+ level system with periodic assessment
- Ability to carry out simple rescues on-site is planned
- User-friendly equipment is suited to operator skills