



WEEKLY ES&H TOOLBOX TALK

COMMUNICATIONS
& TRANSMISSION

JANUARY, 2012

For more information:

- [OSHA Standards Personal Fall Arrest System \(29CFR 1910.66 App C\)](#)
- [Bechtel Core Process 212- Fall Protection \(Section 4.0\)](#)
- [Bechtel Communications and Transmission Safety and Health Subcontractor Program- Fall Prevention and Protection \(Section 5.15\) Competent Tower Climber \(Section 5.16\)](#)

Pre-use Check

An inspection of the equipment must be completed prior to each use of fall protection equipment. Pre-use checks must be done visually by running the equipment through your hands to detect small cuts, hardening of fibers or deterioration caused by exposure to chemicals or ultraviolet light. Inspections should be performed in a well lit area.

Competent Person Inspections

While Bechtel Core Process– (CP 212) re-

FALL EQUIPMENT INSPECTION

Fall protection equipment inspection is an essential element of a personal fall protection program. All components of the system must be inspected thoroughly by the worker prior to each use. In addition, the equipment must be inspected at least annually by an individual who, by way of training and/or experience, is knowledgeable of applicable standards, is capable of identifying workplace hazards relating to the specific operation, is designated by the employer, and has authority to take appropriate

actions (i.e., a “competent person” as defined by OSHA). If any part of the system fails to meet the manufacturer’s requirements, the component must be marked as defective and immediately removed from service

quires a competent person to inspect the Personal Fall Arrest/ Protection Systems (PFASs) every (3) months, the Communications Subcontractor Safety and Health Program require this process to be formally documented at least annually. All PFAS components should be inspected in accordance with manufacturer instructions. This thorough inspection consists of the following:

- Check function and condition

actions (i.e., a “competent person” as defined by OSHA). If any part of the system fails to meet the manufacturer’s requirements, the component must be marked as defective and immediately removed from service

Inspection Program

Each subcontractor, should designate a competent person to establish a program for the thorough and timely inspection of fall protection equipment.

The program shall include, at minimum:

- Check function of snap hook (e.g., self-locking, self-closing)
- Retraction of Self-retracting lifeline/lanyard (SRL)
- Indication of impact
- Check for impact on snap hook swivel - SRL
- Ripped/torn stitching – no more than two stitches total
- Check for indication of impact on all devices
- Deformation of metal components
- Corrosion and Holes

- An inventory of the equipment to be inspected (including identification tagging).
- The frequency and type of inspection (pre-use checks, competent person inspection).
- Action to be taken upon the discovery of finding defective equipment.
- Records of equipment inspections and training of users.

Storage and Care

Ensure that fall protection equipment is kept clean and stored in a cool, dry location away from direct exposure to sunlight when not in use.

