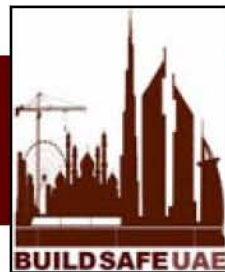


SAFETY ALERT #394



Dated: Sunday, 13th DECEMBER 2009

Title: ATTACHING LANYARD TO FALL HARNESS

IF: You Are Not Careful in Attaching Your Lanyard to Your Fall Protection Harness; THIS MIGHT HAPPEN TO YOU!



Incident Description:

When stepping off the first rung of the ladder where he was working, a contractor caught his left leg in the lanyard of his Harness. He fell and struck his arm on adjacent equipment causing a cut that required 6 stitches.

What Went Wrong:

Because of the way the lanyard was attached it looped down past the employees knees behind him. When descending a ladder you move your foot back then down. If a lanyard loop is hanging behind you below knee level it is easy to get a foot or leg into the loop causing a tripping hazard.

Lessons Learned:

Several options are available to prevent this incident:

- Use a shorter lanyard.
- Use a lanyard with a retractable line.
- Attach the lanyard such that it does not loop below knee level, such as looping it over the shoulder.
- A method should be selected which takes into consideration the type of work being done and the conditions at the worksite.

Earlier this year there was a fatality alert where the loose lanyard caught a rotary piece of machinery (such as those shown in this picture) and it drew the man into the moving parts. Tool box talks on safe use of lanyards.