TOOLBOX TALKS

Reddan Contractors, 438 Southchurch Road, Southend-on-Sea, SS1 2QA

Tel: 01702 616061

Email: helpdesk@reddan.co.uk

Toolbox Talk Details	
Title	D09 - Working over safety nets or soft-landing systems
Reason	Using safety nets and soft-landing systems safely can save lives or minimise injury in the event of a fall.
Outline	This talk covers the use of safety nets and soft-landing systems, together with some requirements for installation and rescue.

Safe use

1. These systems are known as collective fall protection measures and are preferred to the use of safety harnesses and lanyards as they off er protection to more than one person.
2. There are many different types of safety net and soft-landing system that can be selected to suit circumstances. They are not designed to prevent falls, but to minimise the risk of injury after a fall, of either people or materials.
3. Safety nets should only be installed by a competent net installer who holds a recognised qualification, such as the Fall arrest safety equipment training (FASET) Safety net rigger qualification.
4. Safety nets should be fitted as high as possible beneath the work area to minimise the distance of a fall. Clearance below the net should be in accordance with the manufacturer's information sheet.
5. A safety net must be tight enough to minimise sag when loaded.
6. In addition to pre-use and handover inspections, safety nets should be inspected and recorded on a weekly basis by a competent person to ensure they are still in a safe condition.
7. Safety net anchors must not be fixed to recently constructed walls or into blockwork walls.
8. 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.
9. If soft-landing systems are to be used on upper floors, ensure stairwells are covered and windows are guarded to prevent someone who falls from being projected elsewhere.
10. Ensure floors are clear of debris before soft-landing systems are installed.

Means of rescue

1. A rescue plan should be in place for all work above safety nets and soft-landing systems.
2. When safety nets and soft-landing systems are used, consider how someone will get out of the net if they fall.
3. If a person falls and is not injured, they will often be able to climb out of the area, but if they are injured, they may need to be rescued.
4. When using airbags, it is possible to slowly reduce the air pressure to gain access without disturbing a casualty too much. With beanbags, which are a little more rigid, boarding could be used if it is readily available or the bags could be unclipped to allow access.

Inspection

1. Safety nets are individually tagged (identified) and must be inspected weekly (as well as daily pre-use checks). The results of the inspection should be recorded.

2. Soft-landing systems should be subjected to daily, pre-use checks.

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 displaced and should be inspected before use.

4. Sharp objects are also likely to cause cuts, which would weaken a net or deflate an airbag.

Revision Date	Assessed By	Signature
January 2021	Michael Reddan