All good rescue system involves advanced planning. Before there is any risk of a fall, make sure you know what our fall rescue plan calls for you to do.

If a fall occurs, any employee hanging from the fall arrest system will be rescued safely and as quickly as possible. Fast rescue of fall victims can include one or both of the following:

• A system for rescue by co-workers, and/or,
• A way of calling a trained rescue squad.

When a fall occurs, several things should be done:

1. Communicate with victim and monitor constantly.

2. If victim is conscious and has no complaint of injury, attempt rescue by use of man lift(s), mobile scaffold or ladder if available and if co-workers can do the rescue safely. If the victim is unconscious, DIAL 911 to call for off-site fire department or emergency rescue team. Stay calm and answer all questions asked by the EMS operator.

3. Send a co-worker to the job site entrance to meet the rescue team and direct them to the accident scene.

4. If it is necessary to move the injured employee (further injury could occur if worker is not relocated) support the head, neck, and back to prevent spinal injury. An employee trained in First Aid/CPR should be called to help in rescue.

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The Houston Fall Prevention Alliance was formed by the below organizations to provide their members, and others, with information, guidance and access to training resources that will help them protect the health and safety of workers, particularly by reducing and preventing exposure to fall hazards in the construction industries and addressing fall related issues and understand the rights of workers and the responsibilities of employers under the Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSH Act). In developing this alliance, these organizations recognize that OSHA’s State Plan and On-site Consultation Project partners are an integral part of the OSHA national effort.
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