Fall Arrest Systems | SAFE WORK METHOD STATEMENT (SWMS)

TASK OR ACTIVITY: Fall Arrest Systems

Business Name: [Company Name]		ABN: [ABN]	SWMS#
Business Address: [Company Address]			
Contact Person:	Phone: [Phone]	Email:	

THIS SAFE WORK METHOD STATEMENT IS APPROVED BY THE PCBU OF THE PROJECT

Under the Work Health and Safety Regulation (WHS Regulation), a person conducting a business or undertaking (PCBU) is required to ensure that a safe work method statement (SWMS) is prepared before the proposed work starts.

Full Name:		
Signature:	Title:	Date:

Details of the person(s) responsible for ensuring implementation, monitoring and compliance of the SWMS as well as reviews and modifications of the SWMS.

Full Name:	Title:	Phone:

ALL PERSONNEL PARTICIPATING IN ANY ACTIVITY ON THIS SWMS MUST HAVE THE FOLLOWING COMMUNICATED	NAME AND DATED SIGNATURE OF ALL RELEVANT PERSONNEL WHO HAVE BEEN CONSULTED AND COMMUNICATED TO IN THE DEVELOPMENT AND APPROVAL OF THIS SWMS		
	NAME	SIGNATURE	DATE
Safety meetings or toolbox talks will be scheduled in accordance with legislative requirements to first identify any site hazards, secondly to communicate those hazards and then to further take steps to either eliminate or control each hazard.			
If an incident or a near miss occurs, all work must stop immediately. Depending on the severity of the incident, a meeting will be called with all workers to amend the SWMS if required. The meeting may also be an educational opportunity.			
Any changes made to the SWMS after an incident or a near miss must be approved by the Person Conducting Business or Undertaking and communicated to all relevant personnel.			
The SWMS must be kept and be available for inspection at least until the work is completed. Where a SWMS is revised, all versions should be kept. If a notifiable incident occurs in relation to which the SWMS relates, then the SWMS must be kept for at least two years from the occurrence of the notifiable incident.			

CLIENT OR PRINCIPAL CONTRACTOR DETAILS	
Client:	SCOPE OF WORKS
Project Name:	Provide a detailed description of the specific work being carried out (otherwise known as a scope of works).
Project Address:	
Project Manager:	
Contact Phone:	
Project Manager Signature:	
Date SWMS supplied to Project Manager:	

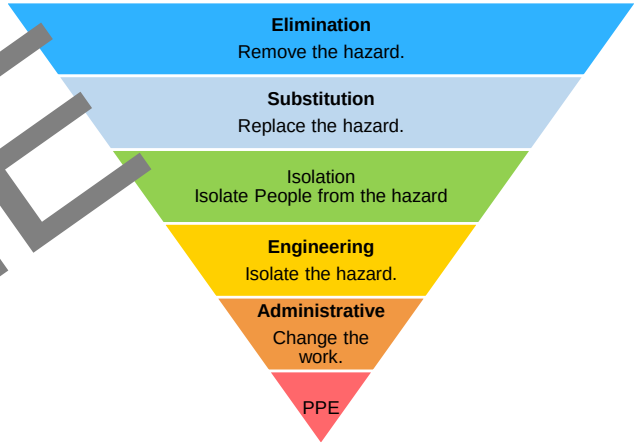
ANY HIGH-RISK CONSTRUCTION WORK BEING CARRIED OUT	
☐ involves a risk of a person falling more than 2 meters.	☐ is carried out on or near pressurised gas mains or piping.
☐ is carried out on a telecommunication tower.	☐ is carried out on or near chemical, fuel or refrigerant lines.
☐ involves demolition of an element of a structure that is load-bearing.	☐ is carried out on or near energised electrical installations or services.
☐ involves demolition of an element related to the physical integrity of a structure.	☐ is carried out in an area that may have a contaminated or flammable atmosphere.
☐ involves, or is likely to involve, disturbing asbestos.	☐ involves tilt-up or precast concrete.
☐ involves structural alteration or repair that requires temporary support to prevent collapse.	☐ is carried out on, in or adjacent to a road, railway, shipping lane or other traffic corridor.
☐ is carried out in or near a confined space.	☐ is carried out in an area of a workplace where there is any movement of powered mobile plant.
☐ is carried out in/near a shaft or trench deeper than 1.5m or tunnel involving use of explosives.	☐ is carried out in areas with artificial extremes of temperature.
☐ is carried out in or near water or other liquid that involves a risk of drowning.	☐ involves diving work.

ANY HIGH-RISK MACHINERY OR EQUIPMENT NEARBY							
☐ Forklift	☐ Crane/s	☐ Hoist/s	☐ Excavator	☐ Backhoe/Loader	☐ Boom Lift	☐ EWP	☐ Genie Lift
☐ Trencher	☐ Drilling Rig	☐ Trucks	☐ Formwork	☐ Bobcat	☐ Flammable Gas	☐ Fuel	☐ Dozer
☐ High Voltage	☐ Mulcher	☐ Tilt-up Panels	☐ Roller	☐ Scissor Lift	☐ Tractor	☐ Other -	

RISK MATRIX

LIKELIHOOD	INSIGNIFICANT	MINOR	MODERATE	MAJOR	CATASTROPHIC	SCORE	ACTION
ALMOST CERTAIN	3 HIGH	3 HIGH	4 ACUTE	4 ACUTE	4 ACUTE		
LIKELY	2 MODERATE	3 HIGH	3 HIGH	4 ACUTE	4 ACUTE	4A ACUTE	DO NOT PROCEE
POSSIBLE	1 LOW	2 MODERATE	3 HIGH	4 ACUTE	4 ACUTE	3H HIGH	Review befo work starts.
UNLIKELY	1 LOW	1 LOW	2 MODERATE	3 HIGH	4 ACUTE	2M MODERATE	Ensure control measures in place.
RARE	1 LOW	1 LOW	2 MODERATE	3 HIGH	3 HIGH	1L LOW	nitor and k records

HEIRARCHY OF CONTROLS



Notes on Hierarchy of Controls: Elimination methods are the most effective and preferre en co lli d hazard. Substitution is the second most effective method of controlling a hazard. Engineering by isolation is the ost ef ve, while Administrative Controls by changing the work is the fourth most effective method. PPE (Personal Protective Eq ment) he least effective method.

PERS NAL TECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE)

FOOT PROTECTION	HAND PROTECTION	HEAD PROTECTION	HEARING PROTECTION	E PROTE	SPIRATORY PROTECTION	FACE PROTECTION	HIGH-VIS CLOTHING	PROTECTIVE CLOTHING	FALL PROTECTION	SUN PROTECTION	HAIR/JEWELLERY SECURED
											
☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Select the appropriate PPE above suitable for the equipment used or the job task being performed (if applicable).

Note: A SWMS must be reviewed regularly to make sure it remains effective. A SWMS must be reviewed (and revised if necessary) if relevant control measures are revised. The review process should be carried out in consultation with workers (including contractors and subcontractors) who may be affected by the operation of the SWMS and their health and safety representatives who represented that work group at the workplace.

When a SWMS has been revised, the person conducting a business or undertaking must ensure all:

1. persons involved in the work are advised that a revision has been made and how they can access the revised SWMS;
2. persons who will need to change a work procedure or system as a result of the review are advised of the changes in a way that will enable them to implement their duties consistently with the revised SWMS; and,
3. workers that will be involved in the work are provided with the relevant information and instruction that will assist them to understand and implement the revised SWMS.

JOB STEP	POTENTIAL HAZARDS	IR	CONTROL MEASURES	RR	RESPONSIBLE PERSON
SPECIFIC WORK STEPS	HAZARDS THAT MAY ARISE	INITIAL RISK	SPECIFIC MEASURES TO BE PUT IN PLACE TO ELIMINATE OR CONTROL THE RISKS	RESIDUAL RISK	NAME OF PERSON
1. Preparation	Uneven surfaces, overhead hazards	2M	- Conduct a thorough site inspection prior to work commencement to identify uneven surfaces and overhead hazards, documenting any areas of concern. - Ensure workers receive proper training in identifying potential hazards associated with the use of fall arrest systems, as well as techniques for preventing accidents. - Provide workers with personal protective equipment (PPE) such as slip-resistant footwear, hard hats, and safety glasses to protect against the identified hazards. - Establish designated walkways or pathways through work zones that are clearly marked and free from obstacles, ensuring that these are consistently maintained. - Install appropriate temporary barriers, warning signs, and/or caution tape around hazardous areas to alert workers and prevent accidental access. - Keep the work site clean and well-organised by promptly removing debris, tools, and equipment that could cause tripping hazards or other accidents. - Utilise adequate lighting in work areas to ensure visibility, taking care not to create glare, which can be an additional hazard to workers. - Incorporate the use of leveling tools and materials as necessary to stabilise work platforms and ladders, reducing the likelihood of falls and other incidents related to uneven surfaces. - Schedule regular breaks for workers, allowing them to rest and recover, which helps maintain proper vigilance when working within hazardous environments. - Implement a buddy system where workers are encouraged to report potential hazards immediately, fostering a proactive safety culture among the team members. - Perform periodic supervision and site audits throughout the project duration, ensuring compliance with established safety measures and procedures, and revising practices as necessary to accommodate changes or new hazards encountered.	1L	
2. Equipment selection	Incorrect size, lack of training	3H	- Proper training: Ensure all workers using the fall arrest systems have been adequately trained in selecting the right equipment and its safe usage. - Correct size selection: Workers must select the correct size of harnesses, lanyards, and other necessary equipment for proper fit and function. - Inspection before use: Thoroughly inspect all fall arrest equipment daily prior to each use for signs of wear, damage or defects that may impact its effectiveness. - Consultation with suppliers: Collaborate with competent equipment providers to ensure the suitability of materials and products being used in accordance to relevant standards. - Equipment compatibility: Verify that all components of the fall arrest system are compatible and suitably rated for the intended application. - Manufacturer's instructions: Always follow the manufacturer's recommendations and guidelines on the selection, installation, and maintenance of fall arrest systems.	2M	

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			- Proper storage: Store all equipment in a clean, dry, and well-ventilated area that is free from direct sunlight, extreme temperatures, and exposure to chemicals. - Weight capacity considerations: Ensure that the fall arrest system has the appropriate weight capacity to support the worker with their tools and equipment. - Regular maintenance: Schedule periodic maintenance checks on all fall arrest equipment and keep records of inspection results as required by legislation and industry best practices. - Clear communication: Encourage open communication among workers to share knowledge on proper equipment selection and hazard identification. - Personal Protective Equipment (PPE): Require workers to wear suitable PPE, such as helmets and eye protection, when utilising fall arrest systems. - Tool tethering: Implement tool tethering protocols to prevent tools from falling and causing potential injuries when working at heights. - Emergency response plan: Develop and implement a clear emergency response plan for addressing incidents involving fall arrest equipment. - Continuous improvement: Encourage workers to suggest improvements for safer work processes and procedures, promoting a robust safety culture within the workplace.		
3. Fall arrest anchorage installation	Faulty connections, corrosion	4A	- Inspection and Maintenance: Regularly inspect fall arrest anchorage systems for signs of wear and tear, including faulty connections and corrosion. Schedule routine maintenance to keep equipment in optimal working condition. - Proper Anchorage Selection: Select appropriate anchorage points based on the type of work being performed and the specific requirements of the fall arrest system. Ensure that anchorages are designed and rated for use with the chosen fall arrest equipment. - Quality Control: Use only high-quality, certified fall arrest anchorage systems from reputable suppliers to reduce the risk of faulty connections and corrosion-related incidents. - Cleanliness: Keep all components of the fall arrest system free from dirt and debris, which can contribute to corrosion and impaired functionality. Proper cleaning procedures should be followed according to the manufacturer's guidelines. - Training: Provide thorough training for workers on the correct installation and inspection procedures for fall arrest anchorage systems. Workers should be able to identify potential hazards, such as faulty connections and corrosion, and report them immediately. - Redundancy: Implement a redundant fall arrest system to ensure that if one anchorage point fails, the worker is still protected by another secure anchorage point. This allows for an additional safeguard against faulty connections or corroded anchorages.	3H	

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			- Use of Corrosion-Resistant Materials: Utilise fall arrest anchorage systems made of materials that are resistant to corrosion, such as stainless steel or galvanized steel, to minimise the likelihood of corrosion-related issues. - Environmental Considerations: Assess the specific environmental conditions of the worksite (e.g., exposure to moisture, chemicals, or salt) and select appropriate fall arrest anchorage systems that can withstand these conditions without compromising safety. - Safe Work Procedures: Establish and enforce safe work procedures that prioritise proper installation and inspection of fall arrest anchorage systems. These should include step-by-step instructions for workers to follow, ensuring consistency and safety throughout the - Incident Reporting and Investigation: Encourage workers to report any concerns or incidents involving faulty connections or corrosion in fall arrest anchorage systems. Promptly investigate these reports and take corrective action as needed to prevent future occurrences. Regularly review and update safety procedures based on lessons learned from these investigations.		
4. Harness inspection	Damaged, worn equipme	3H	[redacted]	1L	

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			[redacted]		
5. Harness fitting	Incorrectly fitted, tangled	3H	[redacted]	2M	

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SPECIFIC WORK STEPS	HAZARDS THAT MAY ARISE	INITIAL RISK	SPECIFIC MEASURES TO BE PUT IN PLACE TO ELIMINATE OR CONTROL THE RISKS	RESIDUAL RISK	NAME OF PERSON
			[redacted]		
6. Attachment to anchor point	Incorrect hook-up, weak anchorage points	4A	[redacted]	3H	

JOB STEP	POTENTIAL HAZARDS	IR	CONTROL MEASURES	RR	RESPONSIBLE PERSON
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			[redacted]		
7. Work at height commencement	Poor communication, worker distraction	2M	[redacted]	1L	

JOB STEP	POTENTIAL HAZARDS	IR	CONTROL MEASURES	RR	RESPONSIBLE PERSON
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			[redacted]		
8. Monitoring and adjusting fall arrest systems	System malfunction, interference	3H	[redacted]	2M	

JOB STEP	POTENTIAL HAZARDS	IR	CONTROL MEASURES	RR	RESPONSIBLE PERSON
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			[redacted]		
9. Rescue/evacuation readiness	Lack of procedures, inadequate training	4A	[redacted]	2M	

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			[redacted]		
10. Regular system inspection	Miscommunication, overlooking issues	2M	[redacted]	1L	

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			[redacted]		
11. Dismantling the system	Dropping objects, entanglement	3H	[redacted]	2M	

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			[redacted]		
12. Storage and maintenance	Improper storage, neglecting maintenance	2M	[redacted]	1L	

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EMERGENCY RESPONSE – CALL 000 FOR EMERGENCIES

Ensure to have an Emergency Management Plan in place as well as adequate numbers of trained first aid staff with easy access to fully stocked first aid kits, rescue equipment, material safety data sheets, adequate access to emergency communication equipment and fire-fighting equipment suitable for all classes of fire and ignition sources.

LEGISLATIVE REFERENCES

RELEVANT LEGISLATION AND CODES OF PRACTICE. DELETE THE LEGISLATIVE REFERENCES FOR ANY STATE THAT ARE NOT APPLICABLE

Queensland & Australian Capital Territory
Work Health and Safety Act 2011
Work Health and Safety Regulations 2011
Legislation QLD: https://www.worksafe.qld.gov.au/laws-and-compliance/work-health-and-safety-laws
Codes of Practice QLD: https://www.worksafe.qld.gov.au/laws-and-compliance/codes-of-practice
Legislation ACT: https://www.worksafe.act.gov.au/laws-and-compliance/acts-and-regulations
Codes of Practice ACT: https://www.worksafe.act.gov.au/laws-and-compliance/codes-of-practice

New South Wales
Work Health and Safety Act 2011
Work Health and Safety Regulations 2017
Legislation NSW: https://www.safework.nsw.gov.au/legal-obligations/legislation
Codes of Practice NSW: https://www.safework.nsw.gov.au/resource-library/list-of-codes-of-practice

Northern Territory
Work Health and Safety (National Uniform Legislation) Act 2011
Work Health and Safety (National Uniform Legislation) Regulations 2011
Legislation NT: https://worksafe.nt.gov.au/laws-and-compliance/workplace-safety-laws
Codes of Practice NT: https://worksafe.nt.gov.au/forms-and-resources/codes-of-practice

South Australia
Work Health and Safety Act 2012 (SA)
Work Health and Safety Regulations 2012 (SA)
Legislation for SA: https://www.safework.sa.gov.au/resources/legislation
Codes of Practice for SA: https://www.safework.sa.gov.au/workplaces/codes-of-practice#COPs

Tasmania
Work Health and Safety Act 2012
Work Health and Safety (Transitional and Consequential Provisions) Act 2012
Work Health and Safety Regulations 2012
Work Health and Safety (Transitional) Regulations 2012
Legislation for TAS: https://worksafe.tas.gov.au/topics/laws-and-compliance/acts-and-regulations
Codes of Practice for TAS: https://worksafe.tas.gov.au/topics/laws-and-compliance/codes-of-practice

Details of permits, licenses or access required by regulatory bodies (add or delete as required):

- Permits from local council
- Authorisation to commence work
- Any required documents.

Victoria
Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004
Occupational Health and Safety Regulations 2017
Legislation VIC: https://www.worksafe.vic.gov.au/occupational-health-and-safety-act-and-regulations
Codes of Practice VIC: https://www.worksafe.vic.gov.au/compliance-codes-and-codes-practice

Western Australia
Work Health and Safety Act 2020
Work Health and Safety Regulations 2022
Legislation Western Australia: https://www.commerce.wa.gov.au/worksafe/legislation
Codes of Practice WA: https://www.commerce.wa.gov.au/worksafe/codes-practice

Safe Work Australia Links
Law and Regulation (All States): https://www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au/law-and-regulation
Model Codes of Practice: https://www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au/resources-publications/model-codes-of-practice

Model Codes of Practice

- Managing noise and preventing hearing loss at work
- Confined spaces
- Labelling of workplace hazardous chemicals
- Managing risks of hazardous chemicals in the workplace
- Welding processes
- First aid in the workplace
- Managing the risk of falls at workplaces
- Hazardous manual tasks
- Managing the risk of falls in housing construction
- Managing electrical risks in the workplace
- Demolition work
- Excavation work
- Work health and safety consultation, cooperation and coordination
- Managing the work environment and facilities
- How to manage work health and safety risks
- Managing risks of plant in the workplace
- Construction work

SIGNATORIES OF THE SAFE WORK METHOD STATEMENT

The signed and dated personnel listed below have cooperated in the consultation and development of this Safe Work Method Statement which has been approved by the Person/s Conducting a Business or Undertaking (PCBU). In signing this Safe Work Method Statement each individual acknowledges and confirms that they have read this SWMS in full, having raised any questions for items on this Safe Work Method Statement that require clarification, and confirms that they are competent, skilled and knowledgeable for the task assigned to them. Every person acknowledges that they have received the relevant training and qualifications where required, before carrying out any work contained in this Safe Work Method Statement. By signing this Safe Work Method Statement each individual agrees to work safely, to follow any safe work instructions which are provided, and agrees to use all Personal Protective Equipment where appropriate.

Worker Name	Position	Signature	Date	Time	Supervisor
			Date:		
			Date:		
			Date:		
			Date:		
			Date:		
			Date:		
			Date:		

SAFE WORK METHOD STATEMENT MONITORING AND REVIEW

The SWMS must be reviewed regularly to make sure it remains effective and must be reviewed (and revised if necessary) if relevant control measures are changed. The review process should be carried out in consultation with workers (including contractors and subcontractors) who may be affected by the operation of the SWMS and their health and safety representatives who represented that work group at the workplace.

When the SWMS has been revised the PCBU must ensure that all persons involved with the work are advised that a revision has been made and how they can access the revised SWMS, including all persons who will need to change a work procedure or system as a result of the review are advised of the changes in a way that will enable them to implement their duties consistently with the revised SWMS. All workers that will be involved in the work must be provided with the relevant information and instruction that will assist them to understand and implement the revised SWMS.

The SWMS must be monitored regularly for the effectiveness of ensuring hazard controls are effective in reducing the risk of incidents, keeping the workplace safe for all personnel. The person responsible for monitoring the effectiveness of the Safe Work Method Statement should employ a multi-faceted approach which includes but is not limited to:

1. Spot Checks.
2. Consultation with workers, contractors and sub-contractors.
3. Internal audits on a continual basis.

An approach of continuous improvement, promptly recording inconsistencies or deficiencies, followed up by immediate corrective action and consultation with all relevant personnel ensures that the PCBU is consistently developing ever-improving systems of safe work principles.

REVIEW NUMBER	☐ 1	☐ 2	☐ 3	☐ 4	☐ 5	☐ 6	☐ 7
NAME							
INITIALS							
DATE							

SAFE WORK METHOD STATEMENT REVIEW CHECKLIST

This Safe Work Method Statement Review Checklist is to be followed and used upon initial development of the SWMS to help ensure that all steps have been adequately taken before work commences. Think of this document as an internal audit review checklist before commencing work, and may form part of a Toolbox Talk (safety meeting) and may be used as an opportunity for education and training.

ITEMS WHICH MUST BE INCLUDED IN THE SWMS	COMPLETED	TO BE DONE	COMMENTS
The company details have been entered, including the project name and address.	☐	☐	
Names and signatures of all relevant personnel consulted during the development of the SWMS.	☐	☐	
Name, signature, position and date signed of the person approving the SWMS.	☐	☐	
Specific personnel and qualifications, experience is noted in the SWMS.	☐	☐	
Provides a step-by-step process of tasks required to carry out the activity or task.	☐	☐	
Adequate risk assessment of any identified hazards has been completed.	☐	☐	
Foreseeable hazards are identified and documented for each step.	☐	☐	
Any hazards listed in any site risk assessments have been added to the SWM	☐	☐	
SWMS initial risk (IR) column as well as residual risk (RR) columns completed.	☐	☐	
Check control measures added to the SWMS are the most effecti se tions.	☐	☐	
Responsible person is assigned and listed on the SWMS for the im ementa of cont measures.	☐	☐	
Permit requirements specified, such as Hot Wor Electrical Work, W at Heights etc.	☐	☐	
SWMS identifies plant and equipment to be us d.	☐	☐	
Details of inspection checks required for any equipment listed ar noted on the SWMS.	☐	☐	
Describes any mandatory qualifications, experience, training skills required to perform the work.	☐	☐	
Applicable personal protective equipment is selected on the SWMS.	☐	☐	
Lists any required permits or licenses.	☐	☐	
Reflects and documents any legislative references and/or Australian Standards.	☐	☐	
Identifies any hazardous substances used with specific control measures in line with any SDS.	☐	☐	

REVIEWED BY		**DATE REVIEWED**	
SIGNATURE		**DATE COMPLETED**	