



October 23 — Tied Off Doesn't Mean Out of Danger

Employee was tied off but there was potential for swing in the event of a fall. Could result in an injury.

Stopped worker and found a better tie off point.

Learning: Your Tie-Off Point Matters

Fall protection does more than keep a worker connected it needs to help keep the worker protected if a fall actually occurs. In this observation, the employee was tied off, but the location of the tie-off point created the potential for a swing in the event of a fall.

A worker can be properly wearing fall protection and still have another hazard to consider. If the anchor point is positioned to the side rather than appropriately above or near the work area, a fall can create a swing hazard. The worker may move sideways and potentially strike a structure or other object.

The concern was identified before a fall occurred. The worker was stopped, and a better tie-off point was found. This is exactly the kind of correction we want to make before the hazard has an opportunity to become an incident.

Fall protection planning should include more than asking, *"Am I tied off?"* We also need to ask, *"Where am I tied off, and what happens if I fall from here?"* Look at the location of the anchor, the worker's position, and the area around the potential fall path.

Taking a few extra moments to evaluate the tie-off point can help prevent a fall from turning into a swing into a nearby structure or object.

Hazards

- Swing hazard during a fall
- Striking a structure or object during a fall
- Tie-off point positioned away from the work area
- Fall protection setup that doesn't account for the fall path
- Serious injury from a fall or swing

Words of Wisdom

Being tied off is only part of fall protection. Look at where you're connected and what your fall path will look like before you begin the work.

Pause and Think

- Where is my tie-off point in relation to where I'm working?
- If I fell from here, where would I travel?
- Could I swing into a structure or other object?
- Is there a better tie-off point available?
- Have I considered the entire fall path not just whether I'm connected?

Closing Thought

Don't just ask if you're tied off. Ask where you'll go if you fall. The right tie-off point can make all the difference.