



## May 5 — Close Enough Isn't Safe

<b>Contractor was sitting on top of 2 pipes with harness on but not tied off, probably 15ft up</b>	<b>I said they should probably be tied off up there and they thanked me and tied off</b>
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He had the harness on. That part was right. But it wasn't connected.

Sitting on top of two pipes, about 15 feet up, the setup looked controlled. Balanced. Familiar.

It probably didn't feel like a fall hazard in that moment. Because nothing was moving. Nothing felt unstable.

But fall protection doesn't depend on how stable it feels. It depends on whether you're actually tied off.

A harness without a connection doesn't stop a fall. It only gives the appearance of protection.

And when something shifts a foot slips, a surface moves, balance is lost there's no time to fix it.

The correction was simple. Tie off. Stay connected.

Because at that height, "close enough" doesn't change the outcome.

This wasn't about not having the right equipment. It was about not using it when it mattered.

### Hazards

- Fall from elevation (~15 feet)
- Loss of balance or footing
- Working unprotected at height
- False sense of security
- Line of fire exposure to gravity

### Stats

- Falls from heights remain a leading cause of serious workplace injuries<sup>3</sup>
- Many fall incidents involve workers who had protection available but not in use
- Even short-duration tasks account for a large portion of fall-related incidents
- Proper tie-off significantly reduces injury severity

### Words of Wisdom

- Wearing it isn't the same as using it
- If you're not tied off, you're not protected
- "It'll only take a second" is when it happens

### Pause and Think

It's easy to convince yourself you're fine when things feel stable.

You've got the harness on.

You're only going to be there for a moment.

You've done it before.

But those thoughts don't stop gravity. The only thing that does is being properly tied off before the exposure happens.

- Do I ever rely on balance instead of protection?
- Am I treating short tasks like they don't carry the same risk?
- Do I wait until I "need it" to tie off?
- Would I stop someone else in the same position?