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## **Personal Fall Protection: A Look at the Differences Among Industries**

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## Personal Fall Protection: A Look at the Differences Among Industries

### Abstract

Fall prevention and protection is a mandatory part of nearly every type of construction. This project took a closer look at the fall protection equipment used in the construction industry relative to the equipment used in other industries. These industries include high rise window washing, rock climbing, utility lineman, and tree trimming. All of these industries rely on some form of fall protection and the equipment used varies per each unique application. In the construction industry, falls are the highest ranked cause of injury and account for roughly one third of all construction fatalities annually. A closer look at the differences in equipment may provide a more suitable solution to the problems that occur in a post-fall situation. Even with the most modern harnesses in use, there is still a risk for a fatal type of post-fall suspension trauma called orthostatic incompetence. This occurrence is not uniquely dangerous to the construction industry; any fall victim that is suspended for a prolonged period of time can be affected by it. There are products on the market to counter the effects of this phenomenon, but they are not yet used in common practice.

### Disciplines

Engineering



# Personal Fall Protection

*A Look at the Differences Among Industries*

Nathan Miller

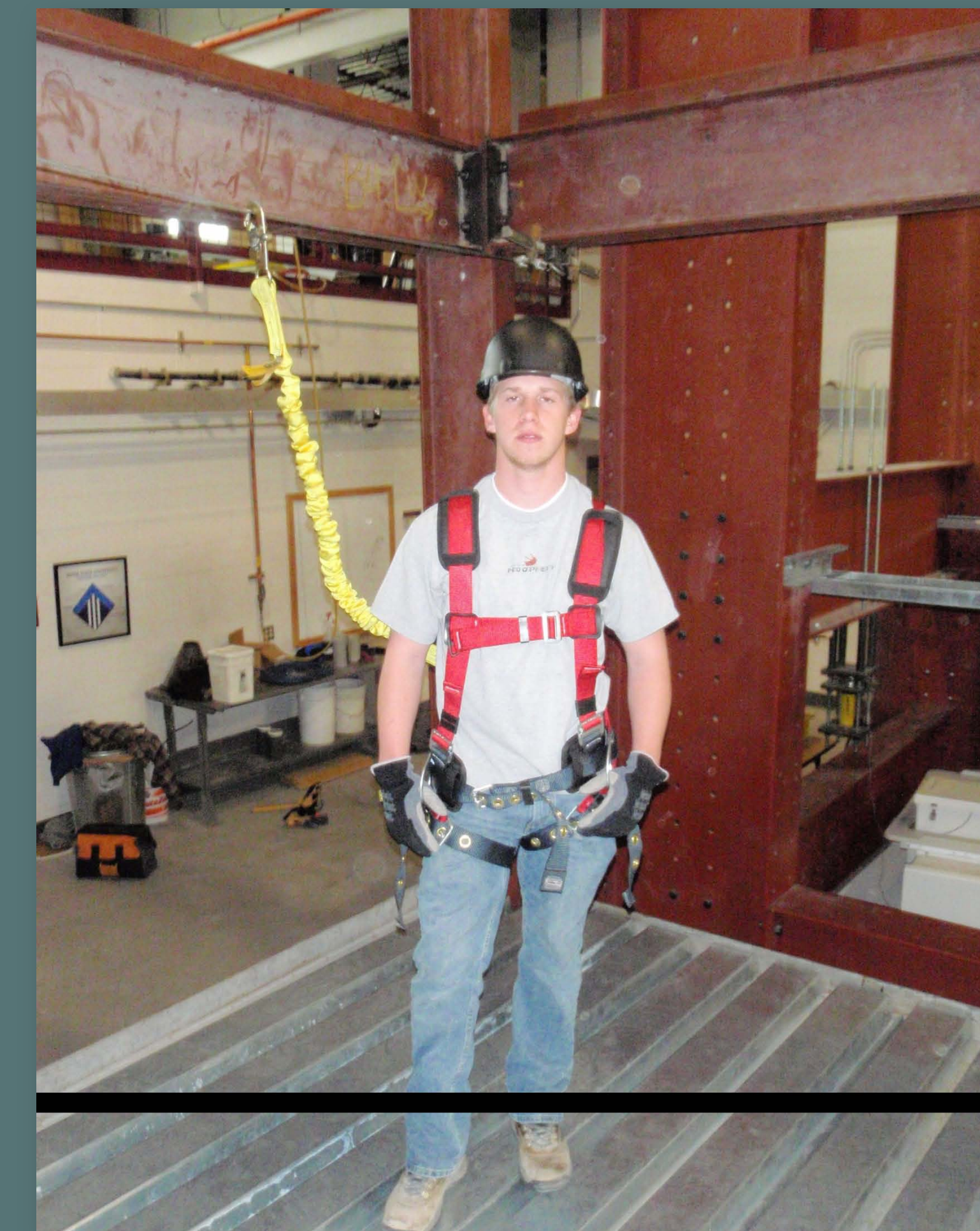
## In Construction

Fall prevention and protection is a mandatory part of nearly every type of construction. Not only is it required by OSHA, it is also necessary for any non-ground level jobsite to be run safely. According to the Construction Industry Research and Policy Center, falls are the highest ranked cause of injury and account for roughly one third of all construction fatalities annually.

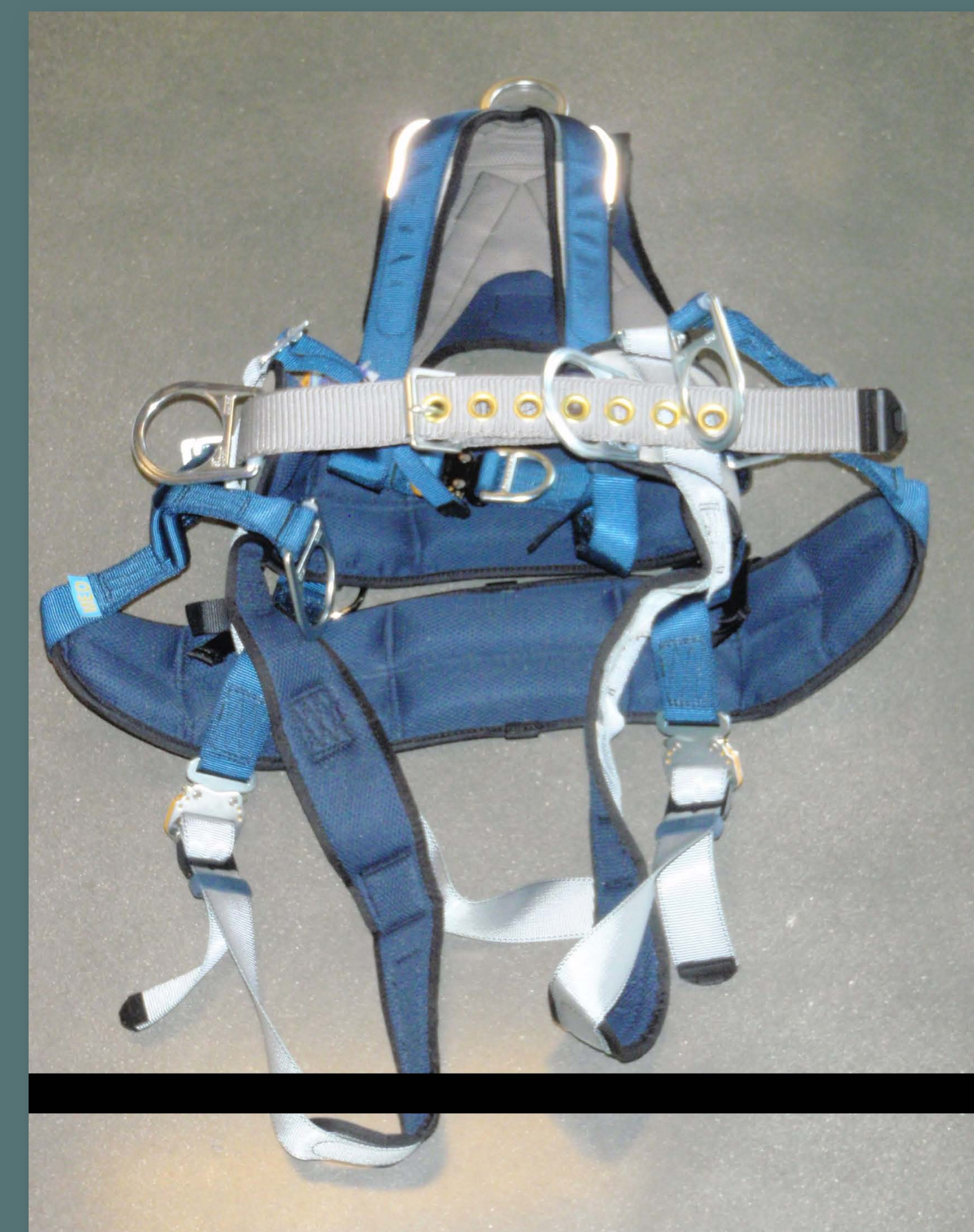


The purpose of this study is to take a closer look at the fall protection equipment used in the construction industry relative to the equipment used in other industries. These industries include:

- *High rise window washing*
- *Rock climbing*
- *Utility lineman*
- *Tree trimming.*



Unlike the other industries, the Construction industry does not have the luxury of being specialized. The fall hazards that accompany the construction industry change on a daily basis. Every job is custom built and provides its own unique fall hazards.



The bottom line is that for every situation that a fall hazard is present, there is a piece of equipment designed to keep that worker safe and productive. The key to lowering the injury and fatality rates is to know what is available and to make the best use of it.

