Height Safety News

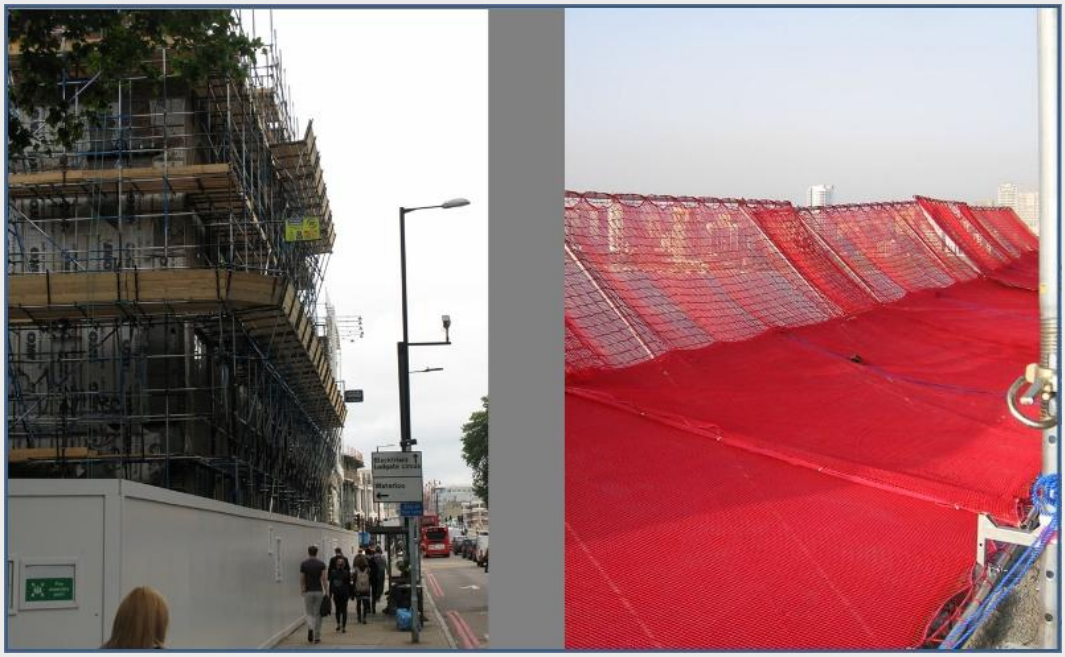
HIGHER SAFETY

Height Safety News August 2015

Dear << Test First Name >>

Welcome to the August 2015 **Height Safety News**.
I'm sorry if you have missed us, we have been extremely committed through June and July and were unable to send out an update.

This month we discuss falling objects and containment .. what is a reasonable trajectory to consider. We also look at two key Standards where details are sometimes missed, EN 13374 for Edge Protection and EN 795 for anchor points.



Protection from falling objects, what is a reasonable trajectory limit ?

As you can see from the two pictures above, opinions differ on the extent of reasonable horizontal projection. For some a five board scaffold fan will do, while for others a Maxifan projecting almost 5m is the choice. There are many things to consider, including the type of work, other measures taken, and at what levels and how often the protection is installed. Of course we also have to consider the chance of a falling object striking something during the fall, and gaining further horizontal momentum.

We could use the very helpful NFDC exclusion zone Guidance Note that suggests 25% of height may be reasonable for hand held objects, however this guidance also notes that certain objects will be more aerodynamically significant than others. Large sheet materials will fly, where small heavy items are more likely to fall vertically.

We could use a more hierarchical approach, removing or at least reducing the potential for falling objects through design and method selection first, and then consider vertical containment and tethering, before remote protection at a lower level.

This is a matter than many are considering now, and there is perhaps an opportunity for a

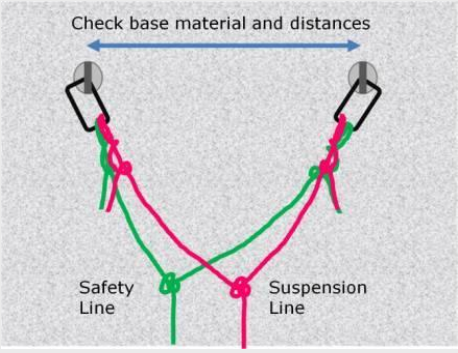
combined approach. Could UKCG pick this up, or is this one for local public protection expectations. It is clearly of greater concern to tight city centre works, where falling objects are perhaps the Principle Contractors primary concern.

Edge Protection Wind Loads.

Many are now correctly referring to EN 13374 as the specification for edge protection, however this may not be the full story. The technical requirements for wind loading within EN 13374 top out at about 40m for most applications (it is actually a load of 600N/mm2, relating to an exposure period of 6 months and a max wind speed of 32m/s).

This means that for applications above 40m high, wind load should be confirmed as it may have a bearing on the support post centres. This need will be emphasised if there is extra height to the edge protection (top ups or extension panels) or if there is increased containment through the use of debris netting or other tighter containment.

There have been many cases where incorrectly installed system edge protection has actually blown over (mostly through a failure to install the barrier clips), completely removing the protection.



Anchor specification for Rope Access.

Many are still referring to EN 795 as the attachment point specification for rope access support. This is a worry, as the structural capacity requirement with EN 795 (Class A1) is 12kN (based on a maximum applied load of 6kN and a FOS of 2). The minimum support capacity required for a single Rope Access attachment point is 15kN (BS7985 and IRATA CofP) .. and of course two independent anchors should always be used for Rope Access.

The justification for the different loading lies in the potential for high load in the event that a Rope Access technician has equipment failure at the top of the support rope. A fall at this point here has little rope material to absorb any fall energy. There is also the need to consider the combined loading of a potential rescuer needing to use the same anchors. For these two reasons, IRATA require a FOS of 2.5 on a maximum applied load of 6kN.

CircumCycle **and** CLICSargent**.**

Every year I am part of a small group who cycle around a county as a challenge. We try and raise money for CLICSargent every three or fours years, and 2015 is a fund raising year. We are cycling Coast to Coast (C2C) as a training ride in September (with the ladies), and then CircumCycling Somerset in October. Total distance will be over 600kms (380 miles).

You can learn more from CircumCycle and donate at Just Giving.
Many many thanks to you all.

Barney

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www.highersafety.org

Our mailing address is: info@highersafety.org