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**Working at Height – Rescue Procedure**

**Tower & Rope access**

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| Date | Revision | Produced by | Approved by |
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1. SCOPE AND APPLICATION

This procedure is intended to inform all personnel of techniques involved during elevated work so they can perform their work safely. This procedure is applicable to all employees and is a recommended guidance to subcontractors of Avec Projects, who performs elevated work where a fall hazard of 2.5m or more exists.

All equipment used for fall protection shall comply with BS EN 363:2008.

All employees performing elevated tower work must have formal “Tower Safety and Rescue training” as specified by the company policy as well as the clients policies (where applicable). Proof of certification for each climbing employee must be on site at all times. For all work performed at heights exceeding 2.5m, rescue equipment will be placed at the base of the tower.

1. PURPOSE

To insure that all personnel performing elevated tower work are prepared in an emergency to provide assistance and/or remove an injured employee from an elevated workstation.

1. RESCUE PLAN

3.1. To ensure all hazards, control measures and rescue information is communicated to each employee:

3.1.1. A review of the rescue plan and equipment shall be undertaken

* + 1. Location of first aid kit, phone and rescue equipment
    2. Directions for local A&E

3.1.4. All emergency numbers and available addresses to nearest Emergency Services location

3.2. Prior to work, the team shall hold a toolbox talk prior to undertaking any height at work, a detailed visual risk assessment, where high risk areas of the tower will be assessed, and the finer details of the rescue plan agreed

4. RESCUE PROCEDURES

4.1. In the event of a fall incident, regardless of the medical condition of the employee, the remaining member of the team shall contact the emergency services on 112, to request medical assistance from the emergency services.

4.2. In the event a climber is unable to remove himself from the tower, the following procedure will be put into action to insure the employee receives adequate and timely response.

4.2.1. The other member(s) of the team will obtain all rescue equipment and relocate it to the team member in need of rescuing.

4.2.2. The rescuer will rig a single line rescue line above the injured party on a secure member of the tower.

4.2.3. The rescuer will attach an approved descender to the line and descend to the position of the injured person.

4.2.5. Depending on the injurie(s) that the person has received one of the following rescue procedures will be utilised:

Op 1 – Cut away rescue **Only to be utilised where an operative confirms they have not sustained an neck or back injuries.**

The rescuer will descend so that they are slightly above the injured person.

The rescuer will utilise 2No. Karabiners (1No. fixed to upper and lower D rings of the rescuer and injured party) to secure the injured person to themselves. Once this has been completed the injured persons rope(s) will be cut away.

Op 2 – Pulley rescue **To be utilised in the event of spinal/neck injuries or when injured person is unconscious and cannot confirm the extent of their injuries.**

The rescuer will descend so that they are slightly above the injured person.

The rescuer will utilise 2No. Karabiners (1No. fixed to upper and lower D rings of the rescuer and injured party) to secure the injured person to themselves.

The rescuer will then utilised a pulley constructed from a hand ascender, carabiner and a sling to lift the injured person from their fall arrest equipment.

4.2.6 Rescuer will then descend to ground level or platform level and re-rig rescue line if a multi pitched rescue is required.

4.2.8. First aid should be administered to the injured employee by the rescuer (all climbers are trained in emergency first aid) until the local emergency medical team arrives.

5. POST RESCUE

5.1. General contractor will be notified immediately.

5.2. The site and all equipment should be secured until a proper accident investigation can be performed.

5.3 HSE will be notified of the incident.