TOPIC: FOUR FACTORS FOR DETERMINING TOOL TETHERS

In this Toolbox Talk, we'll review the four factors for determining the appropriate solution to employ in your tool tethering systems.

// FACTOR #1: TOOL LANYARD WEIGHT CAPACITY

Tool lanyards come in a variety of weight capacities, so knowing the weight of the tool you need to tether is necessary for ensuring the utmost safety while working at height.

// FACTOR #2: LOOP VS. CARABINER

To determine the proper connector for your tool tethering system, consider the location of the tool's attachment point, the intended anchor location and how the anchored tool is being used.

- **Loop ends** fit through a variety of tools and anchor points, but do not connect or exchange quickly.
- **Carabiner ends** are not compatible with as many attachment points as loops are, but they enable quicker connection and exchange.
- **Security of Carabiner:** To ensure maximum effectiveness, workers should also consider elements of an auto-locking carabiner vs. a manual-locking screw-gate carabiner.
- **Connector Material:** The optimal connector material is heavily dependent on your work conditions. Some environments are more suitable to non-metal, some to corrosion-resistant and others require lighter weight solutions.

// FACTOR #3: TOOL LANYARD LENGTH - CLEARANCE, REACH AND SNAG HAZARD

Tool lanyard length should be determined by three factors: clearance, reach and snag hazard.

1. Clearance: how much space is needed between anchoring location and nearest sensitive surface, object or person below
2. Reach: length of the user's reach to ensure lanyard expands far enough
3. Snag Hazard: if working in confined space or application where lanyards with excess space may become get caught up, a short lanyard or retractable lanyard may be needed

// FACTOR #4: ADDITONAL TOOL TETHER OPTIONS

Outside of the primary considerations, there are other unique features that may be beneficial to certain tasks while working at height.

- **Modular Quick Connect:** Quick connecting buckle allows for exchange of multiple tools to a single lanyard.
- **Twin Leg:** Twin leg lanyards allow two tools to be connected or 100% tie off for one tool when transferring tools from point A to point B (e.g., from a hoist bucket to a structure).

DISCUSSION DATE: _____

EMPLOYEE PARTICIPANTS:

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