



ASHTON

COMPLETE
CONCRETE
SOLUTIONS



BRIDGING THE GAP BETWEEN FALL AVOIDANCE AND FALL ARREST

MAKING FALL PREVENTION A
POSSIBILITY ON MORE JOBSITES

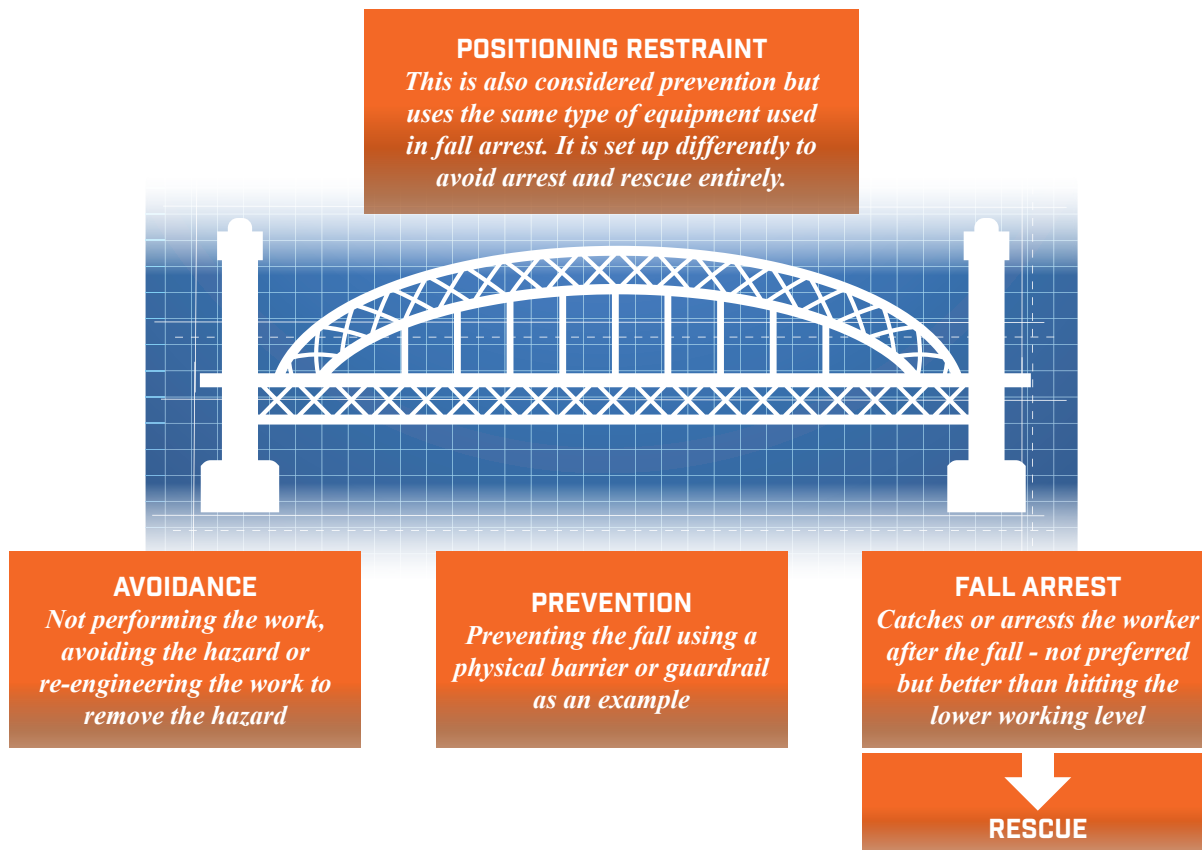
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MAKING FALL PREVENTION A POSSIBILITY ON MORE JOBSITES

Putting a focus on fall prevention that works on more jobsites has the potential to simplify fall protection in the long run by removing the need for rescue and increasing the security of workers.



According to the Center for Construction and Research Training, falls are the leading cause of work-related deaths in construction, accounting for more than one in three (36.4%) of the total number of fatalities in the industry. With this increasing trend year over year, fall protection is top-of-mind in the industry but the complexities of managing fall hazards in the workplace can be challenging. OSHA fall hazard requirements often include an anchor, a connection, and a harness, but is it enough? As an industry, we are meeting OSHA standards but are we using the best possible fall protection?

The belief that we can do more to protect our team members from falls has shifted our focus at Ashton from fall arrest to fall prevention.

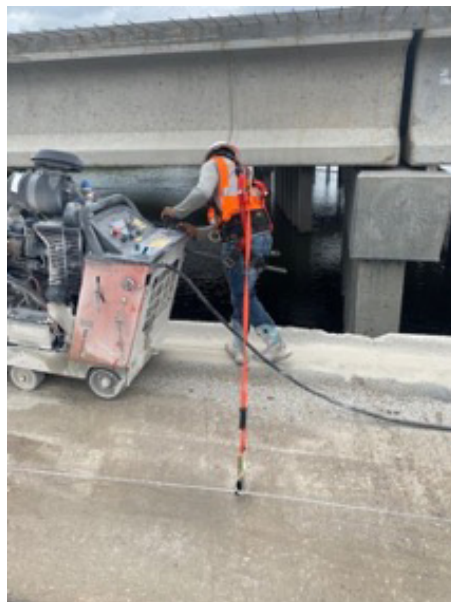
We can all agree that fall prevention is the best scenario when compared to avoidance and fall arrest, but physical barriers such as guard rails are not always an option. To account for this challenge, Ashton uses OSHA-approved, fall arrest equipment in a different setup to prevent falls entirely. We build a positioning restraint system.

SCENARIO 1: GOOD



In scenario 1 fall protection includes a leading-edge, free fall rated self-retracting lifeline connected to a yo-yo. The fall will be arrested and will require a rescue.

SCENARIO 2: BETTER



Similar equipment is being used to create a fall-restraint/positioning system. Instead of using a longer lead line attached to a yo-yo, the line length never extends beyond the fall point. This system eliminates the possibility of a fall and rescue.

EFFECTIVELY MANAGING FALL HAZARDS REQUIRES SOME PRE-PLANNING AND INVESTMENT.



Here are a few tips to make sure you are protecting your team members to the best of your ability:

- 1. Plan. Plan. Plan.** Make sure your safety manager is involved in advance so they can determine the best fall protection.
- 2. Make sure all team members are on the same page.** Workers need to understand the fall restraint plan, so they arrive at the job site feeling prepared and confident.
- 3. Not all fall protection systems or jobsites are created equal.** An anchor/connector and harness may not be the safest way to go in every scenario.
- 4. When work starts you can still adjust your fall protection system if you realize it's not the best option.** Maybe you miscalculated, or maybe elements of the job site have changed. Regardless of the reason, stopping work to make your fall protection safer is always the best policy.
- 5. Train up your team on fall protection best practices.** Through training and practice, your workforce of authorized users can become competent persons which will ultimately keep them safer. The more they understand what it takes to save a life, the better.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



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*Corporate Risk Manager
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Michael is a 25-year veteran in the industry, having spent much of his career as an insurance agent and consultant before starting a safety department at Ashton eight years ago. During his career in insurance, Michael worked with construction companies as well as manufacturers specializing in risk management. His attention to detail, aptitude for assessing and preventing risk, and passion for protecting his colleagues and clients make Michael an asset to construction's safety discipline. Michael is a certified OSHA 500 trainer and has a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Texas at Austin.

MICHAEL'S KEY COMPONENTS TO SAFETY:

- 1. Commitment**
- 2. Hazard Assessment**
- 3. Developing Policies, Procedures & Procure Equipment**
- 4. Training**
- 5. Planning**
- 6. Accountability**