

## EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS WHEN DOING WORK AT HEIGHT OR RIGGING

Emergency preparedness encompasses the planning and the response for potential on-site disasters. These disasters can present themselves in various forms, and being proactive in your planning can be the difference between life and death.

Disasters can be categorized as either internal or external. Internal disasters are any disasters that occur within the confines of fences or walls. External disasters can occur at places other than your daily place of work, such as on the road.

Most internal disasters can be predicted if an agreed set of SOPs are carefully laid out through means of a risk assessment. The risk assessment will help you identify any potential hazards and can be done for almost all internal events. Most external disasters, however, are difficult to predetermine as they take place outside of the controlled environment.

Most work-at-height and rigging activities are internal events and are usually predictable. Therefore, a detailed emergency plan can be created for these activities.

**The follow five easy steps of emergency preparedness can be followed within a work-at-height environment:**

- 1. Assess the site:** Be aware; do your risk assessment; and identify potential hazards.
- 2. Be proactive:** Try to prevent falls rather than simply planning for a rescue. Have the necessary rescue kit available in the event of a fall. The rescue kit must be specific to the access method and site.
- 3. Communicate:** Ensure your team knows the EMS contact details.
- 4. Deploy Resources:** Act immediately in the event of an emergency.
- 5. Educate your team:** Ensure all team members are educated and informed of the rescue procedure.

Assess the site

Be proactive

Communicate

Deploy resources

Educate your team



### Writing an Emergency Response Plan

Crafting an emergency plan involves outlining a comprehensive strategy for effectively responding to disasters should they occur. This written emergency response plan should specifically cover different types of disasters, provide intricate procedures for handling disasters, designate leaders in the case of disasters, and establish training schedules for preparedness. The goal is to ensure the successful implementation of the emergency plan should the need arise.

### Implementing an Emergency Response Plan

Implementing an emergency response plan demands meticulous coordination, regular drills and fostering a culture of preparedness. Engage teams through training, designate roles clearly, and regularly update the plan to enhance responsiveness.

At Gravity, we prioritize proactive preparedness while acknowledging the unpredictability of emergencies. Our training covers a diverse range of probable scenarios, and our versatile kits serve multiple purposes, accommodating work restraint, temporary lifelines and emergency escape. Collaborating with partners, we've innovated techniques like monopole climbing and emergency descents using existing and minimal additional equipment, ensuring effective rescues in challenging environments.

**BE PROACTIVE; BE PREPARED!**

