FALL RESCUE PLAN
BOATSWAIN'S CHAIR OPERATIONS

Company: Skyline Canada Building Services

Project: Location

Client: Name

Date: Date

Supervisor: Name

Emergency Contact: Name

1. PURPOSE

This plan provides detailed emergency rescue procedures for workers performing high-rise window cleaning using boatswain's chair systems. The goal is to ensure immediate, effective response in the event of a fall, equipment failure, or worker incapacitation.

2. SCOPE

This plan applies to all rope access work performed on a XX storey building and addresses all foreseeable emergency scenarios.

3. SUSPENSION TRAUMA

A suspended worker may quickly develop suspension trauma due to restricted circulation. Symptoms include dizziness, unconsciousness, and cardiac risk. Immediate rescue is critical, and all efforts will be made to minimize suspension time.

When a worker falls and is suspended in a harness, it's important to rescue him or her as quickly as possible because of the following reasons.

- The worker may have suffered injuries during the fall and may need medical attention.
- When workers are suspended in their safety harnesses for long periods, they may suffer from blood pooling in the lower body. This can lead to suspension trauma.
- Suspended workers may panic if they are not rescued quickly.
- The event that led to the fall may create additional risks that need to be addressed.

When a worker is suspended in a harness, it is critical to rescue them as quickly as possible. The worker may have sustained injuries during the fall and may require immediate medical attention. Prolonged suspension can lead to blood pooling in the lower body, resulting in suspension trauma. Workers may also panic if not rescued promptly, and the conditions that caused the fall may introduce additional hazards.

4. RESCUE PHILOSOPHY

- Rescue must be immediately performed by on-site personnel
- Self-rescue is preferred where possible
- Assisted rescue from roof is the primary method
- Emergency services are secondary support only

Rescue methods will be selected based on site conditions and accessibility, with preference given to immediate on-site rescue using roof-based systems. Where feasible, alternate methods such as Aerial lift access may be considered.

5. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- Supervisor: Directs emergency response and ensures procedures are followed
- Rescue Worker: Performs technical rescue operations
- Ground Worker: Secures area and assists landing
- All Workers: Maintain communication and follow safety procedures

6. RESCUE EQUIPMENT

- Rescue rope (sufficient length to reach ground)
- Descent control device (Petzl ID or equivalent)

- Full body harness
- Locking carabiners
- Anchor connectors
- Cutting tool (emergency use)
- First aid kit
- Communication devices (phones/radios)

All rescue equipment shall be installed and staged on the roof prior to work.

7. PRE-WORK RESCUE READINESS CHECKLIST

- All anchors inspected and verified
- Rescue equipment installed and accessible
- Weather conditions assessed
- Workers trained in rescue procedures
- Communication systems tested

8. EMERGENCY SCENARIOS

- Worker injury at height
- Suspended worker unable to descend
- Equipment failure or malfunction
- Unconscious worker

9. GENERAL EMERGENCY RESPONSE

1. Stop all work immediately
2. Assess hazard and worker condition
3. Initiate rescue procedures
4. Call emergency services if required
5. Maintain communication

The area below the suspended worker will be secured to prevent unauthorized access. All non-essential personnel will be directed to a safe zone until the rescue is complete.

The site supervisor (or designate) will take immediate control of the situation, stop all work, assess hazards, and isolate the area. Non-essential personnel will be moved to a safe location while rescuing operations are initiated.

10. EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLAN

1. The site supervisor (or designate) shall take immediate control of the situation, assess hazards, and direct all rescue operations.

2. Workers will follow assigned roles, and unnecessary personnel will be cleared from the area to maintain a safe rescue environment.

11. SELF-RESCUE PROCEDURE

6. Worker attempts-controlled descent
7. Backup system used if primary fails
8. Worker descends safely to ground

12. ASSISTED ROOF RESCUE (PRIMARY)

9. Rescuer secures independent anchor
10. Rescue rope and device prepared
11. Rescue line lowered to worker
12. Worker attached to rescue system
13. Load transferred to rescue line
14. Worker lowered safely to ground

13. UNCONSCIOUS WORKER RESCUE

15. Immediate rescue initiated
16. Rescue system deployed without delay
17. Worker lowered quickly but safely
18. First aid provided immediately

14. EQUIPMENT FAILURE RESPONSE

- Stop working immediately
- Secure worker using backup system

- Initiate assisted rescue if needed

15. ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS

- Wind speed and direction
- Rain, snow, or ice
- Visibility conditions
- Obstructions on building face

16. LIMITATIONS

- Balcony or window rescue will not be used
- Fire department used only if necessary

17. POST-RESCUE PROCEDURES

- Worker assessed for injuries
- Incident documented
- Equipment inspected and removed if damaged
- Procedures reviewed for improvement

The incident will be documented, including details of the event, response actions, and any contributing factors. Equipment involved will be inspected and removed from service if required.

Following a rescue, the incident will be documented, including equipment involved, worker condition and contributing factors. Any fall protection equipment subjected to loading will be removed from service and inspected. The incident area will be secured as required, and all regulatory reporting obligations will be followed.

18. COMMUNICATION

Communication during an emergency will be controlled to ensure clarity. Only designated personnel will communicate critical information, and non-essential radio traffic will be restricted.