

# FASET Bulletin SN29 (Revision 2)

## Safety Net Rescue

Those responsible for employees and workplaces need to be clear that when safety nets are provided, there is a potential for the need to carry out a rescue.

The Work at Height Regulations make specific references to rescue as follows:

### ***“Organisation and planning***

*4.-(1) Every employer shall ensure that work at height is-*

*(a) properly planned*

*...and that its planning includes the selection of work equipment in accordance with regulation 7”*

*(2)... planning of work includes planning for emergencies and rescue (The Work at Height Regulations 2005).*

Regulation 7 of The work at Height Regulations goes on to say:

### ***“Selection of work equipment for work at height***

*7.-(1) Every employer, in selecting work equipment for use in work at height, shall -*

*... (b) take account of-*

*... (v) the need for easy and timely evacuation and rescue in an emergency*

*(vi) any additional risk posed by the use, installation or removal of that work equipment or by evacuation and rescue from it” (The Work at Height Regulations 2005).*



To meet the obligations within the Work at Height Regulations, there should be a clear plan in place. It is not possible for FASET to be prescriptive due to site variations, however the following bullet points should always be considered:

- Who will be in charge when a rescue needs to be carried out. Everyone needs to know the chain of command.
- Who will write and communicate the rescue plan and ensure that all participants understand their role.
- How it will be ensured that all resources (equipment and people) referenced in the plan are appropriate, trained and available at all times.
- What parameters will define whether a rescue is appropriate.
- What parameters will define whether the emergency services should be contacted.
- Specification of the role of the competent first aider.
- How the net will be quarantined.
- Who will report the “fall” and get it checked.
- Specification of the rescue route and casualty station.

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**FASET**  
Fall Arrest Safety Equipment Training

FASET recommend that formalised training should be delivered to those working above safety nets and that periodic practice rescue drills should be carried out on a suitable training rig and not on safety nets that have been rigged on a site for fall protection purposes.

In no particular order, methods of rescue may include:

- Self-rescue by climbing out of the net.
- Rescue from above (up to two persons may enter the net from above to assess, treat or aid the faller).
- Rescue from below by positioning a stretcher beneath the faller and cut the net to release them
- Rescue from below using a MEWP.
- Rescue from below using inflatable rescue systems.

FASET provide a rescue workshop to provide further detail on this subject.

## References

The Work at Height Regulations 2005, SI 2005/735.

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