

Selecting the right fall protection connector for leading edges.

Leading edge hazards are more prevalent than you might think. On a construction site, you can find leading edges on decks, concrete surfaces, scaffolds, skylights, mobile elevating work platforms (MEWPs), manholes and steel beams. It's important to ensure that your connecting devices, including self-retracting lifelines and lanyards, are designed to account for leading edge hazards.

Leading edge protection is recommended for*:



*Not an exhaustive list

A leading edge application includes any situation where a connecting device has the potential to contact an edge during a fall. These circumstances are common to a wide range of construction worksites. It's essential to carefully evaluate whether a leading edge compatible connecting device should be used any time the device could contact an edge during use.

Where do leading edges exist?

According to OSHA 1926.751:

Leading edge means the unprotected side and edge of a floor, roof, or formwork for a floor or other walking/ working surface (such as deck) which changes location as additional floor, roof, decking or formwork sections are placed, formed or constructed.



Mobile elevating

work platforms

Concrete decking



scaffold planking

Using a Leading Edge SRL and checking your clearance distance.

Always check the User Instructions of the specific device to properly calculate safe working clearances.





Precast bridge

assembly



Manholes



Steel erection







Flooring

Beam work

Skylights

Virtually all construction crews will encounter worksite leading edges. That's why it's critical to use fall protection components designed, tested and certified to help be resistant to leading edge hazards. These connecting devices should integrate shock absorption to compensate for increased leading edge fall distances.

Consider leading edge rated connecting devices for applications that have leading or sharp edges.

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