

FAREWELL

“Cheryl”  
Williams



Cheryl & Brett started Safetech in 1992, and after 31 years of managing the finances, she is now retiring.

As the Finance Manager, Cheryl has quietly ensured the success of the back office, which has supported the Technical Staff.

We wish her well as she re-focuses her attention on her grandchildren.

WELCOME

“Queraysha”  
Naidoo



Safetech is pleased to announce the appointment of Queraysha as our new Finance Manager. She stepped into the position at the beginning of May, following the retirement of Cheryl Williams.

We are so happy that she has joined our Team, and wish her every success in her new role.

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www.safetech.co.za

**CONTACT US TO PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING SERVICES FOR YOUR BUSINESS:**

- EHS Risk Assessments
- Occupational Hygiene Surveys
- Ergonomics Surveys
- EHS Management System Development and Implementation
- Environmental Monitoring
- Identification of EHS Legal Requirements and Compliance Audits
- Construction EHS Services
- Construction H&S Files
- Internal Auditor Training
- General EHS Training

**WORKING AT HEIGHTS  
FALL ARREST VS FALL RESTRAINT**



Fall arrest and fall restraint are common height safety systems for protecting workers and ensuring regulatory compliance. The two systems serve very specific purposes and should only be used under the right circumstances.

Understanding the features of the equipment, what each system is used for and how it protects the worker, will guide the decision on which option is most suitable for the specific need.

In the Hierarchy of Controls, fall restraint is preferred to fall arrest - but where this is not possible, the working area must be made safe by:

- Using appropriate fall restraint equipment - such as edge protection barriers.
- Using restraint PPE - to prevent workers from reaching fall hazards like an unprotected roof edge or an open manhole.
- Using a fall arrest system - to limit the distance and consequence of a fall.

**»»»» FALL RESTRAINT**

A fall restraint system prevents a worker from being able to reach a hazard in the first place - it allows for continuous work at a fixed distance from the anchorage point. There is less need to have a rescue plan in place for the duration of the work, as there should be zero chance of the worker falling or being suspended in their harness.

**WHAT TO CONSIDER?**

- should always be considered before a fall arrest system (in accordance with the current working at height regulations).
- might also be considered where limited ground clearance is available below the work area.

**RESTRAINT SYSTEMS COMPRISE OF THREE ESSENTIAL PIECES OF EQUIPMENT:**

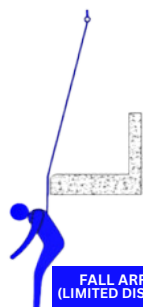
- anchors
- lanyards
- harnesses



FALL PREVENTION (RESTRAINT)



HORIZONTAL LIFE LINE (ANCHOR)



FALL ARREST (LIMITED DISTANCE)

**»»»» FALL ARREST**

A fall arrest system should be used as the last resort. It provides maximum freedom of movement but in doing so, it also enables the worker to reach a position where an accidental fall could occur. In the event of a fall, the fall arrest system ensures the worker will be caught before descending.

**WHAT TO CONSIDER?**

- Fall arrest equipment must be selected and positioned to limit the distance and consequences of the fall.
- When using a fall arrest system, you will need to utilise a fall arrest harness and an appropriate lanyard.
- Following a fall, consideration must be given to the rescue of the worker. Suspension trauma can occur if a worker is suspended in the air for an extended period of time.
- Requires additional training and a safety plan.

**HAZARD IDENTIFICATION AND RISK ASSESSMENT**

If, after taking the hazard identification and risk assessment as well as the hierarchy of protective measures into consideration, it is decided that personal fall protection equipment is necessary, the appropriate type of personal fall protection system and equipment must be selected.

**A risk assessment must be done for every different site and for every different task that is to be performed.**



Department of Employment and Labour Approved Inspection Authority (OH0049-CI-09)



OH0049





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Department of Employment  
and Labour Approved  
Inspection Authority  
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OH0049



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Refer to www.sanas.co.za  
for Schedule of Accreditation

## BATTERY CHARGING HAZARDS & SAFETY

Like many work tasks, charging forklift batteries can create multiple hazards; and like many routine tasks, it can be easy to overlook or underestimate them.

In order to avoid injuries, forklift and powered industrial truck operators need to be properly trained to operate and inspect equipment, including forklift battery charging station safety requirements.



### TRAINING SHOULD INCLUDE INFORMATION ON THE FOLLOWING TOPICS:

#### ① The dangers of moving forklift batteries

Lead acid batteries are very heavy and often require some type of mechanical assistance when they are moved or lifted into a charging station. Equipment used to move batteries should alleviate the need from for manual lifting or awkward body movements.

#### ② Potential for crush and caught-between injuries

Employees may be injured if devices used to move batteries do not have fail-safes or other guards to prevent a battery from falling or moving uncontrollably. In addition, steel-toed safety shoes and procedures that require employees to be out of the path of a battery can help to avoid crush and caught-between injuries.

#### ③ Battery charging can cause flammable gas

Hydrogen gas is generated when batteries are being charged. If the battery charging area is not well-ventilated, hydrogen gas may accumulate and present an explosion hazard. In addition to ventilation and keeping battery charging areas clean and free of ignition sources, hydrogen gas monitors can assist by monitoring flammable gas levels and ensuring that they do not reach unsafe levels.

#### ④ Forklift batteries contain corrosive electrolytes

The electrolyte in batteries contains sulphuric acid, which is corrosive and can cause chemical burns if it splashes out of refillable batteries. Eyewash stations can help quickly remove electrolyte and prevent injuries from becoming more serious. Routine procedures should also include removing electrolyte and dirt from battery casings.

#### ⑤ Spilled electrolyte can cause burns, slips and falls

Spilled electrolyte can cause chemical burns and could also result in a slip or fall. Keeping spill kits in battery rooms and charging areas facilitates fast response so that spills can be absorbed and neutralised quickly. Employees should know how to use the personal protective equipment as well as any neutralisers, tools or equipment in the kits.

#### ⑥ Batteries hold an electric charge

Lead acid batteries hold an electrical charge and have the potential to arc. Batteries should be charged when they reach about 30% of their capacity with charging cables that are in good condition. Employees should remove any metal jewellery that could conduct electricity and be aware of any other metals in the area that may increase the risk of explosion.

Batteries come in many shapes and varieties. Although these hazards are fairly common for all types of lead acid batteries, there may be additional or unique hazards that are specific to the type of battery being used. Refer to the forklift and powered industrial truck manufacturers manual for operational and safety information

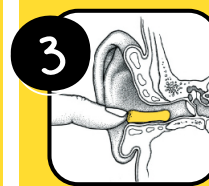
## CORRECT USE OF DISPOSABLE EAR PLUGS



Roll the ear plug into a tight crease-free cylinder between your thumb and your forefinger. Creases will prevent sound from being reliably blocked.



By reaching around your head with the opposite hand, gently tug back on the top of the ear to straighten out the ear canal.



Hold the ear plug in with your finger. Count to 20 or 30 out loud, while waiting for the ear plug to expand and fill the ear canal.

Always insert ear plugs with clean hands, to make sure the sensitive skin in your ear canal stays protected.

### IMPORTANT INFORMATION!

Where employees enter noise zones on a more regular basis, it is advised that ear muffs be considered.