



January 14, 2019

Developer & Primary Construction Contractor Responsibility For Tower Crane High Angle Rope Rescue

This document is intended to set out the expectation upon the owner/developer/primary construction contractor who may require the erection of a tower crane within the Township of Esquimalt municipal boundaries, and may require the provision for high angle rope rescue from the Fire Department as part of the construction process.

Excerpts from WorkSafeBC Regulations

Work at high angles

Section 4.13(3)(a) states that written rescue and evacuation procedures are required for work at high angles. Work at "high angles" means a worker is in a position that cannot be reached by a standard stairway or elevator, and thus an injured worker on a stretcher could not be brought to a location accessible by an ambulance crew without use of specialized rescue equipment and techniques. Some examples are rock scaling while suspended on a rappel system, work being done using a swing stage, work on the jib or upper portions of a tower crane and work in an excavation.

Regulatory excerpt

Section 4.13 of the OHS Regulation ("Regulation") states:

- (1) The employer must conduct a risk assessment in any workplace in which a need to rescue or evacuate workers may arise.*
- (2) If the risk assessment required by subsection (1) shows a need for evacuation or rescue, appropriate written procedures must be developed and implemented, and a worker assigned to coordinate their implementation.*
- (3) Written rescue and evacuation procedures are required for but not limited to*
 - (a) work at high angles,*

Purpose of guideline

This guideline describes the specialized rescue service for high angle rope rescue and lists municipal fire/rescue departments that have developed high angle rope rescue capability using techniques and equipment acceptable to WorkSafeBC. It also provides guidance on arranging rescue service for short-term and long-term work at high angles.



Introduction

Rescue of a worker at a high elevation can be effectively done in a variety of ways, depending on the circumstances at the workplace. For example, on a construction site, the personnel hoist may be used, or a "dedicated emergency platform" (DEP) hoisted by a tower or mobile crane may be used to remove an injured worker. Some work activities, for example window washing, swing stage work and tower crane operation result in a need for high angle rescue capability to rescue or remove a stranded or injured worker. An employer may develop its own high angle rescue capability, and this requires specialized equipment, training and practice.

As an alternative, for a workplace located in an area serviced by a local fire/rescue department, and where the department has high angle rope rescue capabilities, the employer may be able to arrange for the department to provide rescue services for the employer's operation.

The Esquimalt fire department does not provide Tower Crane high angle rope rescue service. However, the Saanich Fire Department has developed a high angle rope rescue capability using techniques and equipment acceptable to WorkSafeBC for workplace rescue and are the service provider under an agreement with the Township of Esquimalt.

Acknowledgement

It is the responsibility of the developer and any person/company authorized by them to carry out construction on the property, which requires a high angle rope rescue service as defined by WorkSafeBC to determine who will provide that service. Should they choose to enter into an agreement with Saanich Fire Department, the Esquimalt fire department requires written notification and a copy of an agreement for such service prior to the erection of a tower crane.

It is also the sole responsible of the developer and any person/company authorized by them, to pay any fees/charges associated to providing a fire department high angle rope rescue service and/or costs incurred responding to an incident in accordance with the Esquimalt Fees and Charges (Miscellaneous) Bylaw 2016, No.2874.

Should the developer and any person/company authorized by them to carry out construction on the property, use a high angle rope rescue service other than from an approved fire department authorized by the Township of Esquimalt, must provide write notification of such contracted service.

If the high angle rope rescue service is provided by a non-fire department provider and should the Esquimalt fire department be requested to respond to assist with a high angle rope rescue, any and all fees or charges associated to that event incurred by the Township of Esquimalt, in accordance with the Esquimalt Fees and Charges (Miscellaneous) Bylaw 2016, No.2874, will be payable by the developer.