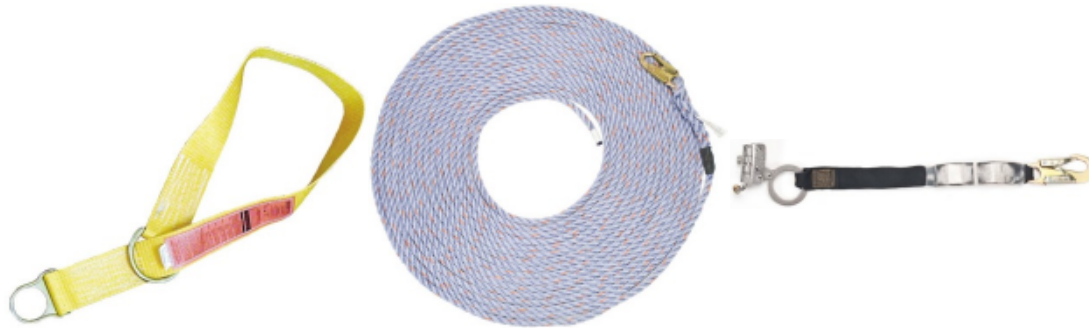


## Fall Protection During Scaffold Erection and Dismantling

OSHA requires employers to provide fall protection for employees erecting or dismantling supported scaffolds in 1926.451(g). During scaffold erection and dismantling, workers are exposed to fall hazards since there are no guardrails yet and decks are not yet fully planked. For this type of work, MSA highly recommends the use of a vertical lifeline attached to a suitable anchor point on the structure itself along with a rope grab fall arrester. The fall arrester should be attached to a full body harness with either an integral energy absorbing lanyard or a separate energy absorbing lanyard no longer than 36 inches.



## Fall Arrest Tie-Off to Scaffolding

A common practice is to use the scaffolding components as a convenient tie-off anchorage for personal fall arrest systems. However, there are a number of concerns with this practice depending on many factors such as the brand of scaffold, the suitability of scaffold tie-backs to the structure, and the location on the scaffold being used for fall arrest.

The Scaffolding, Shoring, and Forming Institute, Inc (SSFI), an organization representing manufacturers of scaffolding systems has addressed this topic in a paper available at the following link.

<http://www.saiaonline.org/userfiles/file/2014%20Use%20Of%20Scaffolds%20As%20Anchorages.pdf>

The following is an excerpt from this paper:



SCAFFOLDING SECTION

**SSFI TECHNICAL BULLETIN**

Use of Scaffolds as Fall Arrest Anchorages

“SSFI members are aware of the increased use of scaffolds as fall arrest anchorages. The members recognize that scaffold erectors and users are being required to use Personal Fall Arrest Systems (PFAS) in some jurisdictions. Scaffold components may seem to be a convenient anchorage, and in many situations scaffold components are the only readily available components for use as a fall arrest

anchorage; however, many scaffold systems and components were not designed or manufactured specifically to withstand fall arrest forces. These forces are quite substantial, and personal fall arrest systems impose dynamic loads on anchorages. SSFI cautions users and erectors that not all scaffold components and systems are designed for the purpose of providing an adequate fall arrest anchorage.”

The best recommendation is for a qualified scaffolding engineer to contact the manufacturer of the scaffolding being used and determine the most appropriate fall arrest solution for the job at hand.