



Research & Education

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Instructors and Training Directors Complete Fall Protection Competent Person Program

With a grant from the OSHA Susan Harwood Program, the Roofers and Waterproofer's Research and Education Joint Trust Fund sponsored a fall protection competent person program conducted by Capital Safety, Inc., a major international manufacturer of personal fall arrest systems.

Held at the Roofers Local Union 33 training facility in Stoughton, MA, October 16-17, the two-day course included classroom instruction and hands-on activities and covered the following topics:

- ▶ Regulations relating to all Fall Protection topics
- ▶ Fall hazard elimination and controls methods
- ▶ Fall hazard surveys and fall protection procedures
- ▶ Responsibilities of Competent Persons
- ▶ Detailed inspection of equipment components and systems
- ▶ Fall protection system assessments and determining when a system is unsafe
- ▶ Fall protection rescue procedures
- ▶ Selection and use of non-certified anchorages
- ▶ Fall hazard surveys

Participants included 15 local instructors and training directors from eight local unions, including Local 33, Stoughton, MA; Local 10, Paterson, NJ; Local 20, Kansas

City, MO; Local 32, Rock Island, IL; Local 44, Cleveland, OH; Local 74, Buffalo, NY; Local 106, Evansville, IN; and Local 195, Syracuse, NY. Dan Ranahan, from Local 33 signatory roofing contractor Feeley, McAnespie, Inc., and International Representative Eric Anderson also completed the course.

Though it was not a train-the-trainer program, the course was designed primarily for instructors and training directors. The objective was to improve each instructor's knowledge and skills in the area of personal fall arrest and restraint, including issues and techniques related to post fall arrest rescue.

All who completed the course received certificates from Capital Safety acknowledging they met or exceeded OSHA, ANSI (American National Standards Institute) and CSA (Canadian Standards Association) requirements as a Competent Person and Competent Inspector.

By all measures, the program was successful. All participants agreed they had learned something they can use in their program in the future. And all indicated that the PFAS Competent Person training would make significant differences in the content and quality of their own fall protection training programs.

We would like to thank Roofers Local 33, Boston, MA, and the Roofers Local 33 Apprentice Program for hosting the event and, in particular, Paul Bickford, International Vice President and Business Manager of Local 33, and Eddie Rolfe, Apprentice Coordinator of Roofers Local 33 Apprentice Program, for their efforts in making this program successful.



Fall Protection Competent Person Course included, left to right: Ken Brown, Nicholas Gechell and Steven Kiebzak from Local 74, Buffalo, NY; Wilfredo Hernandez, Local 33, Boston, MA; Jim Hutter, Capital Safety Instructor; Richard Silva, Local 10, Paterson, NJ; Chris Milliron, Local 44, Cleveland, OH; Mike Miller, Local 32, Rock Island, IL; Jose Rodriguez, Local 44, Cleveland, OH; Robert Purcell, Local 195, Syracuse, NY; Dan Ranahan, Feeley, McAnespie Inc., Chelmsford, MA; Otto Allman, Local 195, Syracuse, NY; Matt Lloyd, Local 20, Kansas City, MO; Jack Collins, Local 33, Boston, MA; Johnny Williams, Local 106, Evansville, IN; Tom Russo, Local 33, Boston, MA; Nic Reed, Capital Safety Instructor; Eric Anderson, International Representative; and Walter Smith and Kevin King, Local 20, Kansas City, MO.



Trainers learned how to attach PFAS to anchors without exposure to fall hazards. Chris Milliron, Roofers Local 44, Cleveland, OH, practices his technique.



Capital Safety Instructor Jim Hutter talks about the distinction between certified and non-certified anchorages and the important considerations for anchorages.



Kevin King, Local 20, Kansas City, MO; Jack Collins, Local 33, Boston, MA; and Steven Kiezbak, Local 74, Buffalo, NY, review the specifications for set up and use of Capital Safety's EZ-Line Retractable Horizontal Lifeline.



Capital Safety Instructor Jim Hutter runs through the proper setup of a temporary retractable horizontal lifeline system. They are typically no longer than 60 feet in length and incorporate in-line energy absorbers to minimize the forces on the end anchorages. They normally accommodate up to 2 workers. More workers can be attached if intermediate anchor points are installed.



Walter Smith, Local 20, Kansas City, MO, examines the action of a static rope grab, which travels on a lifeline and automatically locks onto the lifeline in order to arrest the fall of the user.



Ken Brown, Steven Kiezbak, and Nicholas Gechell (on the scaffold) from Local 74, Buffalo, NY, work together practicing personal fall arrest rescue techniques. The two-day Fall Protection Competent Person course was conducted by Capital Safety-DBI/Sala Instructors Jim Hutter (standing) and Nic Reed (suspended).