

RESCUE OF CASUALTIES FROM SCAFFOLDS

ACTIVITY RAMS — ADAPT TO SITE BEFORE USE

Rescue plan before work · harness suspension · casualty recovery from a lift

KD-RA-SC-002 Rev A0

Statutory basis: Work at Height Regulations 2005 — reg 4 requires work at height to be planned, and the planning includes emergencies and rescue; HSE INDG401 (rev 2, 2014) advises that the rescue plan should not rely entirely on the emergency services; HSE RR708 (2009) on first aid after harness suspension; fall protection equipment examined to BS EN 365:2004; industry practice per NASC SG4:22. First-aid provision is assessed under the Health and Safety (First-Aid) Regulations 1981 reg 3, and reportable incidents are reported under RIDDOR 2013. MHSWR 1999 reg 8 requires procedures for serious and imminent danger; CDM 2015 regs 13 and 15. This document is the recorded safe system of work required by HSWA 1974 s.2(2)(a) and MHSWR 1999 regs 3 and 5.

1 DOCUMENT AND PROJECT IDENTIFICATION

RAMS REFERENCE	PROJECT / SITE REF	SITE NAME AND ADDRESS	DATE PREPARED	NEXT REVIEW DATE
CLIENT / PRINCIPAL CONTRACTOR	PLANNED START	DURATION	OPERATIVES	SUPERVISING THE WORK

2 SCOPE OF WORKS

The rescue arrangements for scaffold work: the written rescue plan, rescue equipment and trained rescuers, and the recovery of a scaffolder left suspended in a harness after an arrested fall, or of a person taken ill or injured on a working lift who cannot climb down — through to hand-over to the emergency services and reporting.

This document does not cover: the erection methods that prevent the fall (KD-RAMS-SC-001, KD-RAMS-SC-002), rescue from cradles and rope access (KD-RAMS-HA-001, KD-RAMS-HA-002), and MEWP emergency lowering and rescue (KD-RAMS-PL-002, KD-RA-PL-004).

SITE-SPECIFIC SCOPE, LOCATIONS AND LIMITATIONS

3 RISK ASSESSMENT — SCORE EACH RISK FOR THIS SITE, THEN ADD WHAT IS MISSING

The hazards and controls below are the starting point for this activity, written by a working main contractor. They are not complete for your site until a competent person has scored each risk, added the site-specific hazards, and struck out anything that does not apply. Rate risks High / Medium / Low before and after controls.

1. Harness suspension after an arrested fall — the casualty deteriorates while hanging

At risk: Scaffolders

Controls: A written rescue plan for every job where harnesses are used, in place before work starts (Work at Height Regulations 2005 reg 4); rescue kit, and people trained to use it, on site whenever the gang is at height; nobody works alone at height; the plan reaches and relieves the casualty without waiting for the fire and rescue service — INDG401 advises that the plan should not rely entirely on the emergency services.

INITIAL (H/M/L)	RESIDUAL (H/M/L)	SITE-SPECIFIC ADDITIONAL CONTROLS, OR N/A	ACTION OWNER	BY WHEN

2. A second casualty — rescuers exposed at the edge during the rescue

At risk: Rescuers

Controls: Rescuers work from protected positions or attach to a secure anchor as SG4:22 requires before leaning out or leaving the guarded area; nobody climbs the outside of the scaffold or onto the casualty's lanyard; if the rescue can only be done by exposing another person, stop and re-plan it.

INITIAL (H/M/L)	RESIDUAL (H/M/L)	SITE-SPECIFIC ADDITIONAL CONTROLS, OR N/A	ACTION OWNER	BY WHEN

3. Rescue equipment missing, unsuitable or out of date when it is needed

At risk: Casualty, rescuers

Controls: Rescue kit chosen for the scaffold type and heights on this job, kept at a point recorded in the plan and checked each shift; harnesses, lanyards and rescue devices examined by a competent person at least every 12 months, or more often where the manufacturer or the employer's regime requires (BS EN 365:2004), with the record kept; anything that has arrested a fall or shows damage is withdrawn and quarantined.

INITIAL (H/M/L)	RESIDUAL (H/M/L)	SITE-SPECIFIC ADDITIONAL CONTROLS, OR N/A	ACTION OWNER	BY WHEN

4. Moving an injured or collapsed person down from a lift

At risk: Casualty, rescuers

Controls: Casualties are never carried down ladders or passed down the outside of the scaffold; first aid is given on the lift; lowering only by a rescue device or stretcher system the rescuers are trained on, or by the fire and rescue service with the casualty kept safe and attended until they arrive.

INITIAL (H/M/L)	RESIDUAL (H/M/L)	SITE-SPECIFIC ADDITIONAL CONTROLS, OR N/A	ACTION OWNER	BY WHEN

5. Wrong first aid after suspension

At risk: Casualty

Controls: First-aid cover set by the site's first-aid needs assessment, which accounts for work in harnesses; first aiders briefed that HSE research RR708 found no evidence to support keeping a rescued casualty sitting up — standard first aid applies once they are down; an ambulance is called for anyone who has been suspended, however well they seem.

INITIAL (H/M/L)	RESIDUAL (H/M/L)	SITE-SPECIFIC ADDITIONAL CONTROLS, OR N/A	ACTION OWNER	BY WHEN

6. Emergency services delayed or unable to reach the scaffold

At risk: Casualty

Controls: Site address, entry gate and scaffold elevation references posted at the entrance and in the plan; the emergency access route kept clear; someone sent to meet the crew and lead them in.

INITIAL (H/M/L)	RESIDUAL (H/M/L)	SITE-SPECIFIC ADDITIONAL CONTROLS, OR N/A	ACTION OWNER	BY WHEN

7. Falling objects during the rescue

At risk: Rescuers, people below

Controls: An exclusion below set as soon as the alarm is raised; loose tools and materials on the lift made safe before anyone works over the casualty; dropped equipment left where it fell for the investigation.

INITIAL (H/M/L)	RESIDUAL (H/M/L)	SITE-SPECIFIC ADDITIONAL CONTROLS, OR N/A	ACTION OWNER	BY WHEN

8. Scene disturbed and the incident not reported

At risk: The investigation, the workforce

Controls: The area is secured and the equipment kept as it was; the supervisor informs the principal contractor at once so the responsible person can make any report RIDDOR requires; the rescue plan is reviewed before work at height resumes.

INITIAL (H/M/L)	RESIDUAL (H/M/L)	SITE-SPECIFIC ADDITIONAL CONTROLS, OR N/A	ACTION OWNER	BY WHEN

Site-specific hazards not listed above — every site has at least one:

HAZARD	WHO IS AT RISK	CONTROLS	INITIAL H/...	RESIDUAL...	ACTION OWNER	BY WHEN

4 METHOD — SEQUENCE OF WORK

- Before work starts, write the rescue plan for this scaffold: likely fall positions, anchors and access, the kit, the trained rescuers on each shift, and how the emergency services are called and met.
- Each shift, confirm the named rescuers are on site and the kit is at its recorded point and checked; no harness work starts without both.
- Brief the gang on the alarm, stopping work, and never climbing out to a casualty unprotected.
- On a fall or collapse, raise the alarm, call the emergency services, send someone to the gate and set the exclusion below.
- Reach the casualty from a protected position — the lift above or below, or a MEWP where the plan includes one — and talk to them while the rescue is set up.
- Relieve the suspension with the planned rescue device, bringing the casualty onto a platform or to the ground; rescuers stay attached throughout.
- For a casualty injured on a lift, give first aid in place and agree with the emergency services whether they are lowered by stretcher system or brought down by the fire and rescue service.
- Once down, give standard first aid and tell the ambulance crew how long the person was suspended.
- Secure the area, quarantine the harness and lanyard, and inform the principal contractor.
- Review the rescue plan with the gang and replace any kit used before work at height restarts.

SITE-SPECIFIC AMENDMENTS TO THE SEQUENCE

5 PLANT, EQUIPMENT AND MATERIALS

- Rescue kit for the scaffold type, per the rescue plan
- Stretcher system suitable for lowering, where planned
- First-aid kit at the scaffold
- Radios or phones with signal confirmed
- Barriers for the exclusion zone
- Fall protection equipment examination register

INSPECTION / THOROUGH EXAMINATION REFS	COSHH ASSESSMENT REFS

6 PPE — THE LAST LINE OF CONTROL, NOT THE FIRST

- Head protection
- Safety footwear
- High visibility
- Gloves — task-rated
- Eye protection
- Hearing protection
- Harness (SG4) — examination in date

RPE TYPE, FACE-FIT STATUS, AND ANY OTHER PPE REQUIRED

7 PERMITS REQUIRED BEFORE THIS WORK STARTS

A permit authorises this work in that place, on that day. It extends the safe system of work in this document — it does not replace it (HSE HSG250). The site issues the permit; record its number before work starts.

KD-PTW-WH-006 — Work at Height Permit

Where the site requires a permit — the rescue plan is attached to it.

PERMIT NUMBER

8 EMERGENCY ARRANGEMENTS — COMPLETE FOR THIS SITE

FIRST AIDER AND LOCATION	NEAREST A&E	ASSEMBLY POINT
HOW THE ALARM IS RAISED	EMERGENCY ACCESS FOR THIS WORK AREA	SPILL / ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSE

9 BRIEFING RECORD — EVERYONE WORKING UNDER THIS RAMS SIGNS BEFORE STARTING

By signing you confirm the contents of this RAMS have been explained to you, you understand the hazards and controls, and you will work to the sequence stated. Tell the supervisor if the work or the site does not match this document — work stops until it does.

NAME	COMPANY	SIGNATURE	DATE

10 PREPARED AND ACCEPTED

Prepared / adapted for this site by — I confirm I have adapted this document to the site, scored the risks, and that it describes how the work will actually be done.

PRINTED NAME	ROLE / COMPETENCE	COMPANY	SIGNATURE	DATE	TIME

Accepted for the site by — principal contractor or site manager review.

PRINTED NAME	ROLE	COMPANY	SIGNATURE	DATE	TIME

Review this RAMS if the work, the site or the law changes, and at least before each new phase of the works. Flatten the completed PDF before filing so the record cannot be silently edited.

R REVISION HISTORY

Every revision of this document, and every review that found nothing to change. The revision on the front of this sheet is the one you are holding — check kubitdocs.com for the current one before use.

Rev	Date	Class	What changed	Authorised by
D0	2026-09-11	first-issue	First issue.	— not yet approved —
A0	2026-09-11	review	Approved for issue by the author. Content unchanged from the reviewed draft; the draft status strip is removed. No independent third-party review has been carried out.	Author — director, UK principal contractor, SMSTS. Not an independent review.

Class: first-issue · material (the law, a control, a field or the scope changed — past buyers are notified) · editorial (wording or layout only) · review (checked, nothing changed) · withdrawal. Revision prefix D = draft; not approved and not for sale; A = approved for issue by the person named, on the date shown.