



PROTECTING **Zip-Line Workers**



**Occupational
Safety and Health
Administration**

Recreational zip-lining

is a popular activity found at places such as parks, summer camps, amusement parks, and resorts. While many enjoy zip-lines, working around them can be dangerous. Workers may be injured or killed by:

- Falls
- Colliding with riders
- Getting entangled with ropes
- Catching nip points (pinch points) on rotating parts

Employers are responsible for providing free protective equipment such as:

- Harnesses or lanyards attached to an anchor or line. Seat harnesses may only be used in conjunction with safety nets or with lines that prevent workers from moving beyond the edge.
- Guardrails
- Helmets
- Safety nets
- Gloves

Industry Standard	
When freefall is potentially:	
Greater than 2 feet	Full body harness attached at center back with a shock absorbing lanyard
Less than 2 feet	Full body harness attached at center back or front

Employers must train workers to:

- Identify fall or other hazards including riders moving down the line.
- Inspect, test and use fall protection systems and protective equipment.
- Always connect to a line or anchor when working at heights.
- Follow the manufacturer's instructions for equipment use, inspection and maintenance.
- Recognize and report equipment defects.
- Safely interact with zip-line riders (e.g., guiding and catching, as well as rescue operations).
- Safely operate the course per company policy.

Employers must:

- Check the worksite for possible workplace hazards.
- Maintain all equipment.
- Provide safe means of access to the platform.
- Check platforms and lines regularly (e.g., before each work shift and before each use) to identify and fix unsafe conditions.
- Provide protective equipment that properly fits each worker and is in good working condition.
- Ensure that fall protection systems are installed, used and properly maintained.
- Instruct participants on zip-lining procedures that are intended to keep workers safe.

Employers and workers should consult ANSI/PRCA American National Standard (ANS) 1.0-3-2014, "Rope Challenge Course Operation & Training Standards" and "ANSI/ACCT 03-2016 Challenge Course/Zip Line Tours Standards" when selecting, evaluating and using zip-line specific safety systems.

Stay connected to a line
when working at heights.

As a worker, you have the right to:

- A safe and healthy workplace. Your employer is required to provide a workplace that does not put you at risk of injury, illness or death.
- Say something about safety concerns without being punished. If you see hazards or an injury, speak up! By law, your employer cannot retaliate against you for exercising your rights.
- Receive information and training in a language and vocabulary you understand. This includes information on workplace hazards, how to prevent them, and the OSHA standards that apply to your workplace.
- Ask OSHA to inspect your workplace if you think it's dangerous. To request an inspection, call 1-800-321-OSHA (6742).

Cover photo: Challenge Designs (CDI)

**Do you have a
safety concern?
Call OSHA. We can help.
It's confidential.**



U.S. Department of Labor



**Occupational Safety
and Health Administration**

1-800-321-OSHA (6742) • www.osha.gov