

Selecting the right fall protection connector for leading edges.

Leading edge hazards are more prevalent than you might think.

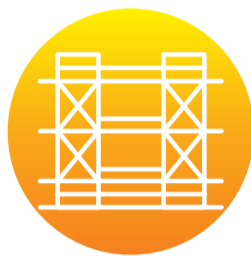
On a construction site, you can find leading edges on decks, concrete surfaces, scaffolds, skylights, mobile elevating work platforms (MEWPs), manholes and steel beams. It's important to ensure that your connecting devices, including self-retracting lifelines and lanyards, are designed to account for the dangers commonly associated with leading edge exposures.

This document is intended for personal connectors only.

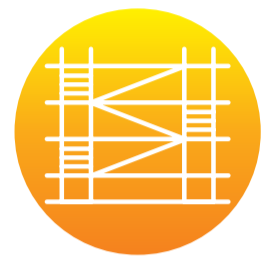
Leading edge protection is recommended for*:



Working at heights while installing roof decking



Steel erection



Working at heights on temporary structures



Leading and sharp edges are found in many construction jobsites. These edges can cut or damage traditional self-retracting lifelines (SRLs) upon contact. The smaller the edge radius, the sharper the edge.

*Not an exhaustive list

A leading edge application includes any situation where a connecting device has the potential to contact an edge during a fall. These circumstances are common to a wide range of construction worksites. It's essential to carefully evaluate whether a leading edge compatible connecting device should be used any time the device could contact an edge during use.

Where do leading edges exist?

According to OSHA 1926.751:

Leading edge means the unprotected side and edge of a floor, roof, or formwork for a floor or other walking/working surface (such as deck) which changes location as additional floor, roof, decking or formwork sections are placed, formed or constructed.



Mobile elevating work platforms



Concrete decking



Working atop scaffold planking



Precast bridge assembly



Manholes



Steel erection



Flooring



Beam work



Skylights

Virtually all construction crews will encounter worksite leading edges. That's why it's critical to use fall protection components designed, tested and certified to help be resistant to leading edge hazards. These connecting devices should integrate shock absorption to compensate for increased leading edge fall distances.

Consider leading edge rated connecting devices for applications that have leading or sharp edges.

For further details on ANSI/ASSP Z359.14-2021 Safety Requirements for Self-Retracting Devices for Personal Fall Arrest and Rescue Systems, please reference the [3M Technical Bulletin](#) or the standard.

Using a Class 2 self-retracting device rated for leading edge and checking your clearance distance.

Always check the User Instructions or clearance label of the specific device to properly calculate safe working clearances.

