

Using of PPE again falls from a height, at a risk of falls on the icefield

1. Danger to humans and the environment



- Incorrect using of anchorage device or the catching system provided as well as modifications or supplements to the system may result in failure.
- Too long lanyards can cause swinging and thus further injury during a fall, e.g. hitting the ice edge
- After a fall, a longer hanging in the harness can lead to heavy or deadly injuring: Harness Hang Syndrome (HHS).
- Frostbites

2. Protective measures and rules of conduct

- When working 2 m or closer from the ice edge and from 2 m height onwards PPE has to be worn
- Only instructed persons are permitted to work with personal protective equipment (PPE)
- Manufacturers' operation manual must be observed
- Before use, PPE must be visually for obvious defects
- A firm helmet is to be worn
- A harness with falling damper is to be worn. Always secure at the front of your chest to be able to help yourself in case of emergency.
- Always keep positioning device taut
- Set fixed point with 10 kN minimum strength (e.g. ice screws), possibly distribute to several points. The attachment point may only be used by 1 person
- Carry long "Prusik loop" (2 m) with you
- Working at the ice edge only with min. 2 persons
- Choose the attachment point in a right angle and with >3 m distance to the edge

3. Behavior in the event of faults

- If the PPE is damaged or it is not functional or tested, it must be withdrawn from use and handed over to an authorized person for testing
- Call help immediately in case of a fall.
- The attachment point is to be checked regarding its safety.
- If possible the person rappels himself down to the ground or into a boat by means of the "Grillon".
- In case the person cannot rappel himself down it takes the "Prusik loop" for releasing until he gets rescued.
- Rescue forces have to secure themselves against falls and use their own fixed points.

4. Behavior in the event of accidents – first aid



- Release injured person from sling
- No shock position in case the person is still amenable.
- Inform command bridge / station coordinator (correspondent to the emergency chain)
- Inform the doctor about accident with person in sling (HHS)
- Secure the area



5. Contact - enquiries

- Harness, carabineers, slings, connecting components, helmets and falling dampers are to be checked yearly
- Before every use the PPE is to be checked regarding functional capability and damages

6. Consequences of non-observance

- Heavy injury of persons or death
- Damage of material