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Technical Bulletin

November 2020

Tag Lines for Self-Retracting Devices (SRD)

Description

3M recommends that the lifeline of an SRD be fully retracted into the housing during extended periods of non-use. A tag line should be used to allow a controlled retraction of the lifeline back into the housing. A lifeline on an SRD that remains paid out for extended periods of time may cause premature weakening of the internal retraction spring thereby affecting the operation of the SRD.

1) A tag line is a separate line that is used exclusively for allowing the SRD's lifeline to retract back into the housing during non-use. The tag line is attached to the SRD's connecting hook and is long enough to allow full retraction of the SRD's lifeline and then access to the line by the user in a safe location.
2) An extended period of time is defined as a period greater than 24-hours in length.
3) When using a tag line, the tag line should be controlled as the SRD's lifeline is retracted back into the housing at a safe, controlled speed. Do not allow the tag line/SRD lifeline to retract out of control (at a high rate of speed).
4) Depending on the work site environment and conditions, it may be necessary to restrain the free end of the tag line to prevent interference and entanglement with workers, equipment or machinery.
5) Tag lines shall not be used directly for personal fall arrest, restraint, work position, personnel riding, or rescue applications.
6) Typical tag line materials include small diameter (3/16 inch to 1/2 inch) lightweight ropes made of materials such as polypropylene or nylon.
7) All applicable manufacturer's instructions for the SRD shall be followed during use.

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