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Wishbone

The Wishbone is an effective part of my PPE that I personally believe should be required by all aerial operations. During transfer procedures an employee could be exposed to a point where it is not feasible to be tied off during the most critical point, the Wishbone removes this hazard and allows the employee to maintain 100% tie off during this procedure while not tethering the helicopter to the structure. It served its purpose for me in Rochester, NY. on March 16th of 2010.

During a transfer from a steel lattice structure to the helicopter the pilot experienced with a high gust of wind from the direction facing the tail of the ship. The pilot tried to maintain position while I was making my transfer but was forced by the wind away from the structure. During this critical moment I was moving my fall protection to the attachment point on the helicopter while holding onto the hand hold. If it were not for my tether to the helicopter and structure via the Wishbone I would have fallen. The wishbone operated as designed leaving me safely tied into the structure while allowing the pilot to pull away safely. If I was using conventional fall protection I could have fallen due to the point in time when I was transferring my fall protection from the structure to the helicopter. If I was using conventional fall protection with two safety tethers it would have tethered the helicopter to the structure through my harness presenting multiple possibilities for catastrophic results.

The Wishbone worked flawlessly and has giving me the chance to write this statement, and allows me to stress how the Wishbone saved my life. I will not forget that moment, and how it reminds me every day the importance of wearing proper PPE including the Wishbone and is a part of my preparation to perform my job. PPE is something that you should always wear, and the Wishbone will always be on my list as a required PPE.

Robert J. Carney
