OWNER'S MANUAL

Model # VF404WL3

ENERGY ABSORBING ROPE GRAB

Installation, Operating, Inspection and Maintenance Instructions

⚠ Warning

You must read and fully understand all instructions, or have all instructions explained to you, before attempting to use this device. Equipment must not be installed, operated or inspected by anyone who does not understand this Owner's Manual. Failure to observe these instructions could result in serious injury or death. Careless or improper use of this equipment can result in serious injury or death. Training and instruction review should be repeated at regular intervals. If you have any questions regarding these instructions or need additional copies, call Gemtor toll free at 800-405-9048.

GEMTOR™

Gemtor, Inc.

One Johnson Avenue
Matawan, NJ 07747
Tel (732) 583-6200
Fax (732) 290-9391
sales.info@gemtor.com
www.gemtor.com

ISO 9001

GEMTOR, INC. UL REGISTERED FIRM ISO 9001 A8316

DESCRIPTION

The Model # VF404WL3 is a small rope grabbing device that can be positioned at any point along a vertical lifeline. If a falls occurs, the rope grab immediately locks on the lifeline. The integral energy absorbing lanyard ensures that the device meets OSHA's maximum force requirements. The grab must only be used with the integral energy absorbing lanyard or with another approved energy absorbing lanyard. If an energy absorber other than the one supplied with the grab is used, it must be attached to the grab using a compatible connector (do not attach a snaphook to the connection point on the grab). Since the Model # VF404WL3 has an energy absorbing lanyard, the user must allow for up to 42" of deceleration distance when calculating necessary fall space.

BEFORE USE

- Inspect the rope grab for any damage, dirt, oil, grit, paint, etc. Refer to "HOW TO CLEAN EQUIPMENT" section (page 4) if necessary.
- Make sure the lifeline is the proper type and size. (⅝" dia. synthetic rope with minimum tensile strength of 5,000 lbs.)
- Tie-off the bottom end of the lifeline vertically below the anchorage point to eliminate excess slack.

RECOMMENDED ROPE

The Model # VF404WL3 Rope Grab has been designed and tested to perform properly on the following types of Lifelines:
Gemtor ⅝" Nylon, polyester, poly-blend and HSP.
Make sure to allow for lifeline elongation when determining the amount of clearance needed in case of a fall. Nylon ropes can elongate significantly under load.

INSTRUCTIONS

The anchor point of a lanyard or decelerating device attached to a lifeline, or a lanyard or decelerating device attached to a fixed anchorage shall be located above the worker's harness attachment. The fixed anchorage to which a lifeline, lanyard, or decelerating device is attached, shall be capable of supporting at least 5,000 lbs. per worker.

Lanyards shall be kept as short as possible to minimize the free fall distance. **Lanyard length should not exceed 3 feet. Free fall distance shall not exceed 6 feet.**

When the working location is reached, the worker should raise the rope grab as high as the lanyard allows and push downward on the handle to lock the rope grab on the lifeline.
Warning: Never attach more than one worker to the rope grab. As required by OSHA, each employee must have a separate lifeline.

FREE FALL CONSIDERATIONS

Free fall distance should be kept to a minimum, and as required by OSHA, in no case shall be greater than 6 feet. To help assure this, the tie-off attachment point to the lifeline or anchor should be located at or above the connection point of the fall arrest equipment to the harness.

INSTALLATION ON LIFELINE

Use only ⅝" diameter recommended synthetic rope with minimum tensile strength of 5,000 lbs.

1) Push lever up as far as it will go.
2) Feed rope in through top of grab (make sure arrow is pointing up).
3) Tie a knot in the lifeline at a distance from the ground (or next lower lever) so that the worker can not strike the ground and the grab can not slide off the end of the lifeline.

EMPLOYEE TRAINING CONSIDERATIONS

Thorough employee training in the selection and use of personal fall arrest systems is imperative. Before the equipment is used, employees must be trained in the safe use of the system. This shall include: application limits; proper anchoring and tie-off techniques; estimation of free fall distance, including determination of deceleration distance, and total fall distance to prevent striking a lower level; methods of use; and inspection and storage of the system. Safety lines, Lanyards, Safety Belts and Harnesses must be utilized in strict accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations. Determination of suitability of any fall protection device for specific use is the responsibility of the user. Questions concerning suitability may be address to GEMTOR.

This rope grab is a personal protective device and should be used for fall protection only! Other uses are contrary to its design and may result in serious injury or death.

CARELESS OR IMPROPER USE OF THIS EQUIPMENT CAN RESULT IN SERIOUS INJURY OR DEATH.

CAUTIONS

Items subject to FALL ARREST or IMPACT FORCES must be immediately removed from service and destroyed. Any item showing EXCESSIVE WEAR OR DETERIORATION should be destroyed. Inspect all equipment before each use. Failure to observe proper inspection and usage procedures could result in INJURY or DEATH.

ENVIRONMENTAL HAZARDS must be considered in selecting the appropriate lifeline, harness and lanyard. Recommendations where chemicals, high temperature or other unusual conditions exist may be addressed to GEMTOR.

TIE-OFFS

Employers and employees should at all times be aware that the strength of a personal fall arrest system is based on its being attached to an anchoring system which does not reduce the strength of the system (such as a properly dimensioned eye-bolt/snap-hook anchorage). Therefore, if a means of attachment is used that will reduce the strength of the system, that component should be replaced by a stronger one, but one that will also maintain the appropriate maximum arrest force characteristics. Employers and employees must realize the reduction in strength caused by certain tie-offs (such as using knots, tying around sharp edges, etc.).
Tie-offs using a knot in a rope lanyard or lifeline (at any location) can reduce the lifeline or lanyard strength by 50 percent or more.

TIE-OFFS (cont.)

Tie-off of a rope lanyard or lifeline around an "H" or "I" beam or similar support can reduce its strength as much as 70 percent due to the cutting action of the beam edges. Such tie-offs should be avoided or alternative tie-off rigging should be used. Such alternatives may include use of a snaphook/D-ring connection, wire rope tie-off, an effective padding of the surfaces, or an abrasion-resistance strap around or over the problem surface. Care should be exercised in selecting dimensionally correct anchor points to avoid accidental disengagement of snaphooks not designed to be compatible for the connection.

INSPECTION

Users should establish their own formal routine inspection according to prevailing conditions with a minimum of two formal inspections per year. Visual inspection is required before each use, for wear, damage and other deterioration, and defective components shall be removed from service.

1. Rope grab, Buckles, D-rings, snaphooks and thimbles shall not be distorted, or have any sharp edges, burrs, cracks, worn parts or corrosion. Make sure buckles work freely. The snaphook gate spring shall provide tension to keep the snaphook gate closed in a locked position; it shall close flat against the snaphook and exhibit no sideways movement or play. Rivets and grommets shall be tightly set in the material with no distortion.

2. All webbing shall be free of frayed or broken fiber, pulled stitches, tears, abrasions, mold, burns or discoloration. Rope splices shall be tight with five tucks. Thimbles shall be held by the splice. Inspect rope by twisting. Inspect webbing by bending and/or pressing over a 1½ inch diameter object.

3. Extension-type shock absorbing devices shall show no evidence of elongation.

HOW TO CLEAN EQUIPMENT

ROPE GRAB

Your Rope Grab has been carefully manufactured of stainless steel, to provide you with a safety device which is as rugged and simple to use as possible. However, it must be realized that this equipment must be carefully used and maintained in order that when it is called upon to act as a safety device, it will operate correctly.

It must be cleaned to operate properly. In order to be kept clean, it is necessary that it be washed each day with a liquid which will dissolve or wash away all contaminates. Cement dust and fly ash should be washed away with water, possibly with a slight amount of soap added. Paint should be dissolved with a paint thinner suitable for the paint being used. Epoxies and waterproofing materials should be removed by immersion in a solvent recommended by the company which manufactures the material being used. It is recommended that a can of solvent be kept at the point of usage of the rope grab, and that the rope grab be left in the solvent overnight. By so doing, the rope grab should be completely cleaned by morning, when it can be wiped off and put to use.

ROPE & WEBBING

1. Dampen sponge in plain water and wipe off all surface dirt.
2. Squeeze sponge dry.
3. Dip sponge in solution of water and mild detergent.
4. Rub down rope/webbing vigorously, working up a thick lather.
5. Wipe dry with clean cloth.
6. Hang away from heat to dry.