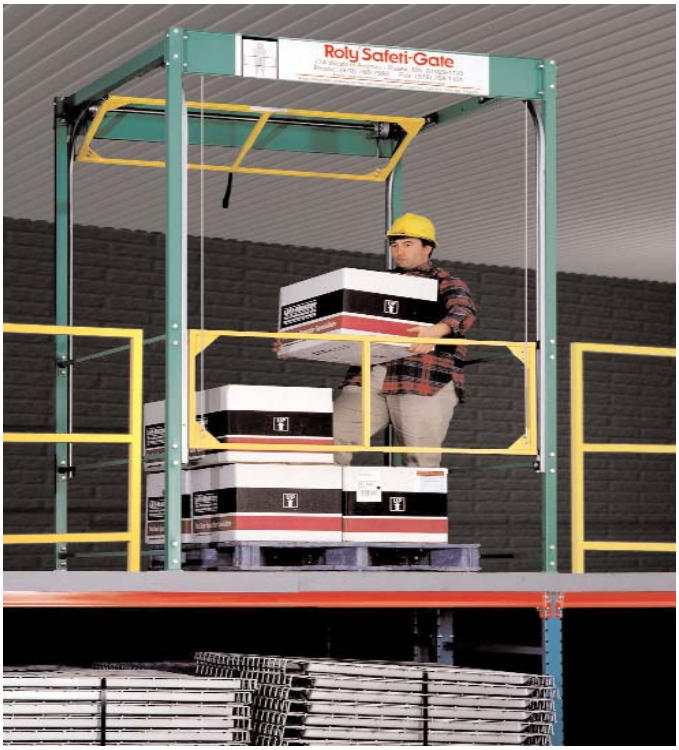
Prevent your workers from going over the edge --- and affecting your bottom line.

Current US Department of Labor statistics are just too startling to ignore. In 2002, falls accounted for thirteen percent of all work-related fatalities. In that year, 714 people died from falls.

While the construction industry accounts for about fifty percent of all job-related fatal falls, non-construction industries tally the other 344 deaths -- that's about one death per day. Out of all fatal falls, eighty-nine percent occur from levels above the ground floor. Non-fatal fall statistics are also alarming. In 2000, eighteen percent of all occupational injuries involving days away from work were due to falls.



Above: A worker is safely protected while unloading a pallet on the mezzanine ledge. The patented ergonomic design of the Roly safety gate provides ultimate protection for both the worker and materials. When the front gate is lifted up allowing worker access, the ledge gate automatically goes down.

These statistics are disconcerting to us all; they also represent real problems for private industry's bottom line. Productivity is affected through missed work days. Worker compensation claims are on the rise, resulting in even higher insurance premiums across the board.

Because over two-thirds of all fatal falls result from positions higher than ground level, worker safety issues become increasingly important. Mezzanines provide a great way to expand your facility while fully utilizing available space, but incorporating additional levels also call for additional safety precautions.

OSHA, BOCA and the Uniform Building Code require hand and guardrails for each additional level. If your system incorporates a pallet-drop area, a "controlled-access area" is required for safe mezzanine operation.

There are many types of safety devices on the market that do not meet current code and offer a certain degree of protection. ***However, some devices are more effective than others.***

Mezzanine Safeti-Gates, Inc.

An OPEN and **SHUT** Case For Plant Mezzanine Safety

The device on the market that offers the highest degree of protection is the Roly(R) safety gate. The unique patented design is engineered to significantly reduce the potential for falls and other accidents associated with mezzanine areas. It creates an enclosed workflow station with two gates interconnected with cables and counterbalanced by a pulley system and torque shaft. When the rear gate is lifted up, the ledge gate goes down. There is always a gate between the worker and the ledge, even while material is delivered or removed from the pallet drop area.

Workers cannot easily override or misuse the Roly safety gate because the counterbalancing of gates is designed to work automatically -- there are no parts to remove or replace to make the system effective. Counterbalancing gates provide finger-tip control, making operation virtually effortless. With the gate unit bolted securely to the mezzanine floor and one gate always separating the workers from the ledge, the desired protection is always there.

The need to address worker safety issues is, for all industry, an immediate necessity. Taking a proactive approach to safety will avoid problems before they become reality. Investing in preventative safety systems will protect workers and, ultimately, industry's bottom line.

There are several important questions to consider when differentiating among types and determining the degree of protection safety devices actually provide.

Will it actually do more good than harm? Safety chains offer visual perception of safety, but offer little in the way of real protection from falls from the mezzanine ledge. The chain can actually *increase* potential danger by flipping an employee.

Is it easy to operate? If a safety device is too complicated to operate, chances are it will not be used correctly, if at all. Lift gates offer a barrier, but require effort and a degree of dexterity in order to remove the gate with a lifting motion. Many workers rightfully resist making this motion on the ledge of a high mezzanine. As a result, the ledge is often left unprotected because the safety device is *not used correctly.*

Will it really protect workers when they need it most? The goal is to protect workers from exposing themselves to an unprotected ledge during their *entire* work operations. Swing gates are easy to operate, but are often left open while workers receive, break down and remove palletized materials. This creates a hazardous situation where workers are exposed to an unprotected ledge for periods of time *when protection is needed most*.

Will it be used consistently?
Many safety devices rely on the workers to be effective. Workers are required to physically remove parts and must remember to replace them. The best safety devices work automatically. If the gate requires less effort, it will be used more often. To ensure consistency of use, *workers should not be able to circumvent the system.*

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