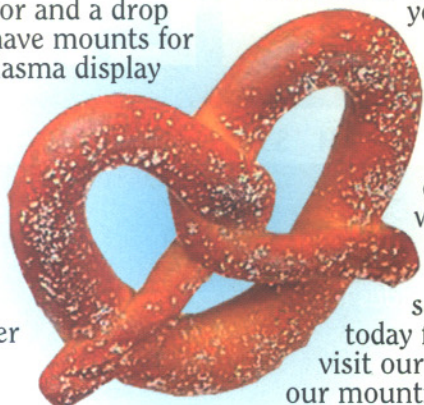


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should be working on any rigging system.

A stop-work procedure should be in place and understood by all so that in the unlikely event of an accident, everyone knows what to do, and a bad situation does not get worse. Anyone climbing above head height must be wearing OSHA-approved fall protection and needs to be trained on the proper use of the equipment.

Tools that may fall from an installer's hands while working overhead should be secured with a lanyard. Communication must be free-flowing and clear. Installers need to understand that they are expected not to take a risk at any time; if they are confused or inexperienced with anything at any time, they must know to stop and ask for clarification.

In addition to the practices listed previously, you must abide by many standards

**Installers need to understand that they are expected not to take a risk at any time.**

and ordinances (depending on the location of the work being performed). For common standards that are adopted into U.S. law, almost without exception, see the sidebar, "Know the Standards."

### ON THE SAFE SIDE

There are also ongoing efforts to create rigging standards for the entertainment industry through the Entertainment Services and Technology Association Technical Standards program. Information about this program can be found at [www.esta.org](http://www.esta.org). These efforts are important to sustain the A/V industry's excellent safety record. While the industry has been lucky so far, it should be in no doubt as to the outcome of a rigging system installation.

It is our duty, as professionals, to be responsible to the industry and to our clients and employees. By compiling a repertoire of best practices, we are behaving conscientiously and appropriately. ■

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