


# SAFETY ALERT


## Disengagement Potential of Locking Snap Hooks

A locking snap hook connected to an energy absorber disconnected from the wearer's harness. The incident did not result in a fall, but this near miss warrants notification to all users of fall protection equipment.\*

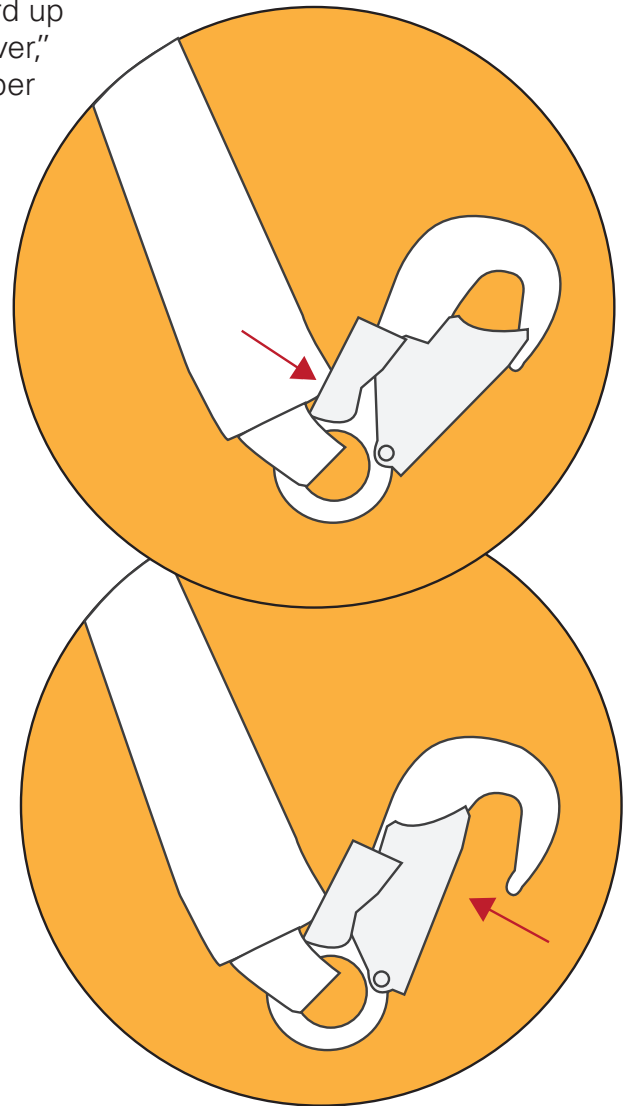
While underneath a conveyor belt, a worker had his back hard up against the structure. As he moved, the snap hook "rolled over," putting pressure on the gate. The cover of the energy absorber depressed and disengaged the locking mechanism of the snap hook. The lanyard then disengaged from the harness.



As illustrated in this alert, several manufacturer designs allow the energy absorber pouch to press against and release the snap hook locking mechanism. Although purposely manipulated and difficult to predict exact conditions where this configuration may occur, it is prudent for authorized, competent and qualified people to be aware of this situation when workers are in close quarters where equipment will contact surrounding structure(s) or become entangled.



To inspect your equipment, hold the snap hook by its nose and bend the energy absorber toward the snap hook gate (as illustrated). You will be able to draw conclusions about how easily this may or may not happen with the equipment you are inspecting.



## SAFETY TIPS:

- Train on-site authorized, competent and qualified people to recognize snap hooks with large-profile locking mechanisms.
- Purchase snap hooks with energy absorber guards and/or low-profile locking mechanisms.
- Recognize work areas where equipment will come into contact with surrounding structure(s) (cable trays, ladder cages, pipe alleys, confined spaces, etc.)