

Safety Newsletter



August 2019



3M Issues Immediate Recall of Two Fall Protection Devices

3M Fall Protection has announced an immediate **stop use and product recall** of the 3M™ DBI-SALA® Twin-Leg Nano-Lok™ *edge* and the Twin-Leg Nano-Lok™ Wrap Back Self-Retracting Lifeline. These Twin-Leg Nano-Loks are used as part of a personal fall protection system that connects two self-retracting lifelines/devices (SRLs/SRDs) directly under the dorsal D-ring of a worker's harness.

- The Twin-Leg Nano-Lok *edge* is intended to be anchored at foot-level, is designed for sharp and/or leading edge applications, and incorporates an energy absorber.
- The Twin-Leg Nano-Lok Wrap Back is intended for wrapping around an anchor and incorporates a similar energy absorber.

3M has determined that in a fall and under certain conditions, the energy absorber of these devices may not properly deploy which could expose the worker to serious injury or death. There have been no reports of accidents or injuries associated with this issue. However, given the possibility of product failure these products must be removed from service immediately.

3M has asked users/owners of this equipment to *IMMEDIATELY STOP USING* your Twin-Leg Nano-Lok *edge* and Twin-Leg Nano-Lok Wrap Back SRL and take these devices *OUT OF SERVICE*.

Next, go to www.NanoLokEdgeRecall.com and follow the instructions on how to return your device. As soon as a product solution is available, 3M will either repair or replace your device and return it to you at 3M's expense. Alternatively, and only until a repair or replacement solution is available, you can return your device and elect to receive cash in the amount of \$400 USD if your device was manufactured after January 1, 2017, or \$200 USD if your device was manufactured before January 1, 2017. The manufacture year/month is printed on the back label of the device.

Toxic Weed Killers

Recently, there have been several court cases regarding the weed killer Roundup in which the judge determined that the herbicide was linked to instances of cancer. Although weed killer products that contain the active ingredient glyphosate are still very popular, as more is learned about the health risks, you may consider using substitutes on your garden, lawn, or sidewalk.

The University of Maryland has performed research on several alternatives to glyphosate herbicides. The research found that acetic acid based herbicides can control some small weeds. You can make a solution at home with household white vinegar or purchase a stronger agricultural-grade acetic acid solution. The research also determined that iron-based herbicides worked for controlling weeds on lawns. Several iron based products are available from popular brands like Scotts (look for the active ingredient Iron HEDTA).

There are also mechanical methods for weed removal, including physically pulling out the weeds or burning with a special handheld torch.



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Staying safe in the surf

A fun day at the beach with your family can quickly be ruined by an accident or injury. Hidden dangers lurk in the water, even for the strongest of swimmers. Did you know that rip currents account for 80% of all swimmer rescues at the beach?

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), drowning (in both pools and natural bodies of water) is the fifth leading cause of unintentional injury death in the United States.

Keep your family safe by following these tips from the U.S. Lifesaving Association:

- If you're going in the water, you should know how to swim.
- Always swim near a lifeguard.
- Don't go alone—swim with a buddy.
- Obey posted signs and flags—flags may be flown on the beach to indicate that the beach is closed or to indicate the presence of hazards like rough surf conditions and/or marine life, like jellyfish.
- If you're on a watercraft (i.e., boat, Jet Ski®, or paddleboard), always wear a life jacket..
- Use sunscreen, and drink water to stay hydrated.

How to protect yourself from falling objects

Each year, there are more than 50,000 “struck by falling object” recordable injuries—that’s 1 injury caused by a dropped object every 10 minutes. Injuries can range from bruises and broken bones to death. These injuries can be caused even by a small, lightweight object dropped from a large height. With safe work practices, however, these injuries are preventable. Everyone at the jobsite has a responsibility for the safety of himself and herself and others, especially if working from a height.

If you are working from a height:

- Have the area below cleared, and post necessary warning signs. Rope off or barricade the area.
- If possible, verbally warn those below that you're about to begin an overhead job, and make sure they hear you.
- Use toe boards, guardrails, screens, and/or paneling to make sure objects don't fall off of scaffolding or platforms. You can also use nets or canopies to catch any falling objects.
- Keep materials far enough from an edge, hole, or opening to prevent them from falling to a lower level.
- Stack materials securely to prevent them from sliding, falling, or collapsing.
- Don't carry tools or materials up a ladder. Use a tool belt, a hand winch line, containers, or buckets lifted by a line.
- If you use a tool belt, make sure pockets, pouches, and slots are the correct size and shape to keep tools from falling out. The belt should be made of a sturdy material and reinforced for the points of tools. If possible, tether the tools to the belt with lanyards. Tools with sharp edges or points should be guarded to prevent injury to you and workers below.

