



## The Consequence of Overconfidence

There's no denying that, if used properly, safety equipment is good for you. Certainly it can ease your mind when you perform dangerous tasks. But when you become too comfortable with it's life-saving abilities, it can make you dangerously overconfident and complacent.

Take this painter, for example, working on a scaffold in the Gaslamp Quarter of San Diego. To his credit, he is wearing a harness ... and, even better, the harness is attached to something. However, in true dum-dum fashion, he's standing on the rails of his scaffold bending waaaay over the edge to paint in a corner.

Would he have done it this way if he weren't wearing a harness? I dunno. I've seen stranger things, but something tells me that wearing the harness has overinflated his sense of security. After all, if he falls, he'll have the harness there to catch him, right?

Yeah, but ... just 'cause the harness will prevent him from creating a dent in the pavement doesn't mean he won't fall and hurt himself. Think about it ... he could hit his head on the building, or pound his body against the scaffold. Either way, he's in for serious case of whiplash.

Folks, when you start to use your PPE as an excuse to do unsafe things, you need to re-examine your outlook on life. Sure it's there to protect you and minimize your injuries, but blatant acts of stupidity void the warranty.