



Instructions for use of Pole Cat

Safety Technology Limited

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This device complies with the E.A. Technical Standard for use on dry & icy poles and has attained all classifications up to and including A1

The device has been subjected to extensive field trials which are ongoing to ensure a high level of fall protection is achieved outside of the laboratory environment.

A retro fitted gaff is available to create the optimum amount of drag required to allow the device to function correctly on an icy pole, although an alternative method of climbing is advised whenever possible in such conditions. Users of the Safety Technology Pole Cat should be trained in its operation before use. For details of training please contact Safety Technology Ltd.

Note you must ensure that the pole is inspected prior to climbing to ensure it is suitable for climbing and as an anchor point.

Method 1

Ascending and Descending

1.1	Put on full body harness in accordance with manufacturers guidelines.
2.1	Attach the rope lanyard to the harness side D ring using the carabiner connected to the adjuster.
2.2	Wrap the webbing choker around the rear of the pole
2.3	Pass the rope lanyard across the front of the pole and clip the rope into the snaphook on the webbing choker to completely encapture the pole
2.4	Connect the carabiner from the rope lanyard to the remaining side D ring of the harness.
3.1	Adjust the webbing choker using the rear adjustment buckle to suit the diameter of the pole and adjust the length of the rope lanyard to allow a comfortable position for climbing.
4.1	Hold the webbing choker using the handles and lean forward slightly to release any pressure from the rope to the front of the pole.
4.2	Lift the webbing choker up the pole and spike up until the webbing choker is at waist height. Repeat as often as required to reach the place of work.
5.1	Upon reaching the place of work, attach a second fall arrest lanyard using a sling or other certified anchor device.
6.1	To descend; lean slightly forward to release pressure from the rope lanyard, using the handles lower the webbing choker
6.2	Climb down so that the webbing choker is again at waist height. Repeat as often is necessary to reach the ground or place of work.
7.1	At ground level unclip the snaphook on the webbing choker to free the rope lanyard. Remove the webbing choker from the rear of the pole and attach to the harness to avoid creating a trip hazard
8.1	Store in a cool, dry environment away from direct sunlight and caustics

The choke strap is designed for use by right or left handed persons.

NOTE: Always keep the choking circle as small as allowed by the pole by adjusting the webbing in the buckle when diameter of pole reduces.

Method 2

Passing an obstruction

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1.1	Follow stages in Method 1 until an obstruction is met.
2.1	Upon reaching obstruction, attach a choking fall arrest lanyard/sling/anchor device above the obstruction
2.2	Connect a suitable fall arrest system to the anchor point if not using a choking fall arrest lanyard
3.1	Unclip the snaphook on the webbing choker and free the rope lanyard.
3.2	Remove the webbing choker from the rear of the pole and pass around the rear of the pole above the obstruction.
3.3	Pass the rope lanyard across the front of the pole and clip the rope into the snaphook on the webbing choker to completely encapture the pole
4.1	Adjust the webbing choker using the rear adjustment buckle to suit the diameter of the pole and adjust the length of the rope lanyard to allow a comfortable position for climbing.
5.1	Resume climbing as specified in Method 1
6.1	To descend repeat the same process but re attach the Pole Cat below the obstruction.

Method 3

Icy / Slippery Poles

An alternative method of working is advised whenever possible in icy conditions.

1.1	Gaffs must be attached before any work is carried out on icy poles
2.1	Open the webbing choker so that the rubber grip is face up.
2.2	Slide the gaffs onto the rubber grip so that they sit with the teeth facing the pole and are positioned to sit within the arch of the handles.
2.3	Secure the gaffs with the R clips to prevent from moving during climbing.
3.1	Attach the Pole Cat to the harness and pole as specified in Method 1 and 2.
4.1	Ensure that the gaffs are in the correct position after passing obstacles.

NOTE:

As with any other fall arrest device redistributing your weight from the device, for example by grabbing the pole will hinder the arrest process and could prevent the device from functioning.

Inspection Care and maintenance of Choke Strap

The choke strap has a maximum 10-year life from date of manufacture, subject to regular inspection.

The choke strap should be inspected by the user before every use,

Inspect in an orderly manner, starting with the metalwork, examine **for cracks, distortion sharp edges and any sign of pitting or corrosion.**

Then move onto the webbing and rope, check **for Tears, fraying, abrasion or signs of fabric stress (bruising)**

Next inspect the stitch patterns and check **for loose or broken stitch patterns and/or abrasion damage.**

Finally examine the rubber friction pad, make sure it is **still fully attached to the webbing and that there are no major cuts, tears or parts of the rubber missing.**

If you identify any significant wear or damage to the Pole Cat, DO NOT USE. Report the findings to the health and safety manager and get a replacement Pole Cat or component.

Care should be taken to keep the Pole Cat clean and as dry as possible to prolong the product life.

When the device becomes heavily soiled it should be cleaned with a mild warm water/detergent solution, rinsed in clean water and dried naturally wherever possible.

Pay particular attention to the moving parts on the clips ensuring they are free from dirt and operate freely, a soft toothbrush or similar may help when cleaning the actions of the connectors. Graphite powder can help maintain the life of the gate.

The gaff should be maintained by keeping free from build up of dirt wood etc. the teeth can be re- sharpened if required with a fine file. If teeth become shortened or distorted through wear or damage the gaff should be replaced **immediately**. A blank template should be used at the usual inspection date to ensure that the angle of the gaff teeth is 90° or – 5mm of the original setting.

If the choke strap is subjected to a fall in which it arrests the wearer the choke strap should be changed **immediately**.