

Invention Profile

Rojen Safety Pole

Inventor Objective: Seeking to expand distribution
IP Status: Standard Patent AU2002214812
Development Stage: Product available for sale and distribution

Bob Richards has worked in the roofing industry for over 30 years. After witnessing a young fellow worker take a particularly serious fall one day in 1988, Bob became determined to find a cost-effective and user-friendly way of keeping roofing workers safe. As a result Bob set about developing the 'Rojen Safety Pole', a fall arrest system incorporating a telescoping aluminium pole mounted on a truss or rafter, which extends upwards 1.3 metres above the roof line and is topped with a stainless steel, pierced cap that spins around on nylon brushes.

The system's design was based on the type of fall arrestor used in mineshafts. This consists of a parachute harness attached to a cable that works like a car safety belt - reeling easily in and out unless it is pulled sharply. Since fall arrestors are designed to be hung downwards, Bob rigged up a vertical pole to provide an elevated anchor point, which was the first of many steps in developing the Rojen Safety Pole.

By 2001 Bob had a good working prototype, which was demonstrated to the WorkCover Authority of NSW, Master Builders Association and a number of local councils. This generated considerable interest from major building companies. Bob then signed a three-year licensing agreement with LRI Life and Rescue International. LRI have

established the Rojen Safety Pole as the only anchor point in Australia certified for use by two people, rated to withstand a 2.1-tonne impact.

Two models of the Rojen Safety Pole are now being produced and marketed: the temporary tradesman's model, and the vent pole model - which also functions as the building's mandatory sewer gas ventilation pipe and provides the permanent roof anchorage now required by legislation.

An increasing number of Rojen Safety Poles are now being fitted on government as well as private buildings around Australia. 'If the Safety Pole saves even just one life, I'll be satisfied,' says Bob.

See the Rojen Safety Pole on [YouTube](#) and ABC's '[The New Inventors](#)'. For further information please phone +61 2 4963 5015 or email rojensafety@optusnet.com.au.

