

# Best Practice – Emergency Employee Extraction

- Company: NorthStar
- Site: McIntosh
- Scope: Plant Demolition (Coal Handling for Unit 1)
- Summary: NorthStar is performing demolition activities at Plant McIntosh. In order to access the coal handling “shaker house” employees must utilize a descending coal conveyor chute. In the event of an emergency, employee extraction could prove challenging. NorthStar provides training and utilizes a RF-550 Rescue retrieval system as well as the modified stokes basket for employee extraction in this case. Additionally, NorthStar performed a live drill to test the equipment and employee reaction/training.



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- RF-550 Rescue Retrieval System & Stokes Basket
- Powered by hand-held battery powered drill
- Training and testing was followed by unannounced Live Drill focusing on communication, response time
- 200' distance, 5 minute rescue time from bottom to top



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**3M** Science.  
Applied to Life.™

**3M™ DBI-SALA®  
Rollgliss™ R550 Rescue  
& Escape Device**

Technical Data Sheet

**Description**

The 3M Rollgliss™ R550 offers the choice of controlled descent rescue, evacuation or the versatility of assisted rescue with lifting capabilities. This state-of-the-art, fully automatic controlled descent device can be used for rescue and evacuation from heights up to 500m for one user 140kg or 175m for two users totalling 280kg. It features 9.5mm super static kernmantle rope, and is configured with connecting hardware at each end of the lifeline to operate in both directions. During assisted-rescue scenarios, a fallen worker can be attached to the R550 device (Rescue Model), raised to a point that allows their fall arrest device to be removed, then lowered to the ground safely. The DBI-SALA® Rollgliss™ systems are used in: Wind Turbine Construction & Maintenance, Utility Pole/Tower Construction & Maintenance, Fire & Emergency Rescue Services, Commercial Construction Sites, Industry and MRO Facilities, Government & Military Operations and more.

**Features**

- **Emergency rescue and evacuation from a wide variety of elevated work areas**  
Offers a fast and reliable rescue solution that requires minimal training for added safety.
- **Fully automatic controlled descent**  
Enables fast, safe and effective descent at 0.6-0.9m per second with no manipulation required by the user for complete ease of use.
- **Bidirectional design enables multiple rescues**  
For added versatility, as one end of the lifeline descends, the other ascends ready for another rescue.
- **Built-in rescue lifting wheel**  
Used during assisted rescue to slightly raise the fallen worker to disengage their fall protection system so descender can lower victim to the ground.
- **10m of 9.5mm kernmantle rope lifeline**  
The super static kernmantle rope is lightweight, yet extremely strong and durable and incorporates a snap hook at each end for multiple rescues.
- **Rated for up to 500m height for one user, 175m for two users**  
Unique design accommodates one user at 140kg or two users totalling 280kg for added job site flexibility.
- **Compact and lightweight design**  
Provides fast installation and easy operation enabling efficient and effective rescue.
- **High strength corrosion resistant construction**  
Aluminium and stainless steel construction will stand up to the elements for an extended service life.
- **Integrated rope ears**  
Allows for greater descent speed control in assisted rescues for added safety.
- **Dual brake design**  
Automatic descent with added security, safety and peace of mind.
- **Equipped with i-Safe™**  
Integrated RFID identification tag for recording and storing information on inspections and tracking safety equipment.
- **Other standard and custom lengths are available**  
Customise to suit your specific job site or lengthen to fit greatest height needed, last three digits in part number detail length in metres.
- **Escape models without lifting wheel also available**  
Various configurations and options are available to suit most site requirements for added peace of mind.

**Standards**

3rd Party Certified with OSHA, EN341, EN1496, ANSI Z359

[3M™ DBI-SALA® Rollgliss™ R550 Rescue and Descent Device 3327100 | 3M United States](#)



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## Bottom Line:

- Contractor evaluated working environment and task and identified an employee extraction hazard
- Identified equipment to provide solution
- Performed Training on equipment and developed program
- Performed unannounced Live Testing and evaluated results for improvement opportunities
- Submitted as a Best Practice on SST Website
- Compliments to Robert Najera (NorthStar) and Dwayne Damron (Southern Company)

