Stilts safety talk

The use of stilts by drywall professionals is commonplace to gain access to ceilings, high walls, and other areas. However, stilts are inherently hazardous, and a much safer alternative equipment is available, such as scaffolding. However, if you still choose to use stilts, please conduct a pre-job safety assessment checklist to proactively identify and control hazards before each use.

* Ensure the stilt worker has been properly trained on their use via the manufacturer’s instructions.
* Make sure the stilts have been inspected to ensure they are in good working order.
* Damaged or defective stilts should be removed from service.
* Ensure floor surfaces are cleared, swept and fully dry.
* Use cordless power tools to avoid tripping on electrical cables.
* Look for changes in the level or slope of the work area that could present a slip or trip hazard.
* Identify any guardrails, edges, doors, or ceiling fixtures that may restrict movement.
* Do not plan any work on or near stairs or other elevated surfaces. The use of alternative equipment should be planned instead of using stilts in these scenarios.
* Make sure the tasks to be completed are light duty and do not require lifting heavy or awkward shaped materials.
* Make sure equipment and materials will be accessible to the stilt worker without bending down or overreaching.
* Be sure the task can be completed without the stilt worker bending down below knee level.
* Ensure that the task can be completed without the stilt worker overreaching sideways.