A screen shot of a computer

Description automatically generatedStilts 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.