

Built for Height: Why Safety is Core to Everything PTSG Does

3 hours ago



This week marks No Falls Week 2026 (18-22 May) and for PTSG – a business founded on working at height – it is one of the most important weeks in the calendar. Here, Group HSE Director Liam Simpson reflects on what it means to build a safety culture from the ground up.

Falls from height remain the leading cause of fatal injury in British workplaces. In 2024/25, 35 people lost their lives – one every week. A further 44,000 non-fatal falls are estimated to occur each year, with nearly 5,000 formally reported by employers. Behind those figures are workers who went to work and did not come home, or who returned changed. For PTSG, these are not abstract statistics. They describe the conditions in which the company's engineers operate every single day.

PTSG was established to provide specialist services at height – access and safety work that demands technical precision, consistent training and a culture where doing things properly is never negotiable. That founding identity shapes how the business operates across all its divisions. Working at elevation is not incidental to what PTSG does; it is central to it. And that reality has always made safety a matter of organisational character, not just compliance.

Prevention as the starting point

PTSG's approach to health and safety has continued to evolve from a compliance-driven model into a proactive, insight-led strategy focused on prevention rather than reaction. Initiatives including near-miss reporting, a structured Golden Hour incident response protocol and the rollout of predictive health and safety systems have shifted the emphasis towards recognising and addressing risk before incidents occur. Real-time reporting and centralised data analysis have given teams clearer visibility across the Group,

enabling more informed decisions at every level.

One measure of that culture is the priority placed on prevention over response. It reflects a deliberate approach in which engineers are trained and empowered to identify and eliminate risk before situations develop, rather than simply being prepared to react when they do. The best rescue, as the company's safety teams put it, is the one that never needs to happen.

A people-led model

The shift in culture at PTSG has not been driven by process alone. Engineers across the Group have been increasingly involved in shaping the practical safety solutions that govern their own work. Alongside formal frameworks, there has been a deliberate effort to build an environment in which colleagues feel able to raise concerns and challenge unsafe conditions – the kind of informal vigilance that written procedures cannot fully replicate.

That people-led approach now extends to wellbeing. No Falls Week 2026 falls back to back with Mental Health Awareness Week, an alignment PTSG views as significant rather than coincidental. Safe decision-making at height requires more than technical competence. An engineer who is fatigued, distracted or under psychological pressure is, by definition, at greater risk. Recognising the connection between mental health and physical safety – and addressing both – is part of what PTSG believes distinguishes a genuine safety culture from a procedural one.

A week of focused activity

PTSG's commitment to No Falls Week this year goes beyond a statement of values. The company has put a full programme of activity behind it.

The week opens on Monday 18 May with a guest session from Dylan Skelhorn, whose personal experience of a life-changing fall from height in 2011 offers a powerful account of what the risks really mean – and what contributes to them. It is the kind of session that reminds every person in the business, regardless of their role, why this work matters.

Tuesday brings a video from IRATA – the global authority on rope access – covering the standards and behaviours that underpin safe working at height. Wednesday is a site engagement day, with all managers asked to actively work with their teams on reporting through VATIX, supported by PPE partner Safpro. Thursday puts knowledge to the test with an online quiz, and the week closes on Friday with the release of a new ladder safety video – a timely reminder that the risks associated with ladders are as real as any other work at height, and just as preventable.

Industry-wide commitment

No Falls Week, organised by the No Falls Foundation – the only UK charity dedicated exclusively to work at height safety – has grown significantly since its launch. More than 4,000 organisations signed up to support the campaign in the past two years alone. PTSG has been a consistent participant, using the week to refresh training, reinforce its safety messaging and recommit to the standards its engineers are held to year-round.

The company is also clear that height safety extends beyond those who work at elevation. Every person

within the organisation - from field engineers to those supporting operations from the office - plays a role in maintaining a culture where risk is taken seriously and shortcuts are not accepted. The principles that apply on a building facade apply equally on a domestic ladder. No Falls Week is an opportunity to reinforce that message at every level.

For a business built on working at height, No Falls Week is less a campaign than a reflection of daily practice. The goal - getting everyone home - is not a slogan at PTSG. It is the standard against which the company measures itself, week in, week out.

No Falls Week 2026 runs 18-22 May. Organised by the No Falls Foundation (Registered Charity No. 1177494). For more information visit nofallweek.org.