

EASTERN EXPRESS  
30<sup>th</sup> and Feb. 1  
29 JAN 1995  
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## Abseiling proposal

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Workers who use gondolas, such as window cleaners, should be trained as abseilers, a building consultant has recommended.

Following a recent accident in which a cleaner in a safety harness fell 17 floors from his gondola, the director of Rope Technology, Michael Wilkinson, said the Government should look at other methods of access to the exteriors of buildings.

He said abseiling was safer than working in a gondola.

The Labour Department does not allow abseiling, citing industrial safety.

But Wilkinson said he was negotiating with the department in an attempt to have the method legally approved.

A spokesman for the Association for the Rights of Industrial Accident Victims said he had doubts about abseiling. "We are already worried about the safety of the bos'n's chair, which has so narrow a platform for workers to sit on, let alone abseiling which involves merely a rope and a bucket," the spokesman said.