

## Profile of the Month



Garry Whitaker

There are men who drive trucks and then there are professional truck drivers. Marion and Aqua Treat are fortunate to have a team of professional drivers.

Garry “Tiny” Whitaker is one such driver. Standing at 6’4” and weighing approximately 1 tractor-trailer-load, he does not hide easily in a crowd. But he stands out not because of his stature, but because of his attitude and work ethic. And with a grin as large as his frame, he endears himself to all who meet him.

A professional keeps his truck serviced, stays on schedule, and maintains a good driving record. Tiny does all of this and more. He works evenings when our clients need it, weekends, and is always ready to step up for an emergency.

Away from Aqua Treat, he is a devoted husband and father, and we are fortunate to have a professional of Tiny’s caliber on our team.

Marion Environmental Inc. is one of the leading providers of environmental consulting, remediation, and emergency response in the southeast. Our goal is to provide cost effective solutions to environmental problems. Making *our* standard, industry standard.

## HAPPENINGS



Aqua Treat employees, family and friends helped Jessica and Gary celebrate their 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with a party at the Lookout Mountain Golf Club. The surprise party thrilled the unsuspecting couple, and everyone in attendance was touched. The food, music and camaraderie combined to create a memorable evening, one befitting this remarkable couple.

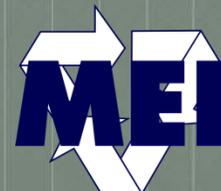
### LEPC Meeting Birmingham

Barry Lasley was asked to give a presentation to the Local Emergency Planning Committee meeting in Birmingham, AL. He introduced Marion to the LEPC community and discussed all of Aqua Treat and Marion’s capabilities. His outstanding presentation elicited a lot of positive feedback. We thank Barry for making the long trek all the way from Knoxville and promoting Marion so aptly.



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## SAFETY TIP – FALL PROTECTION

### 1. Use Railing

When you can, use railings. There are railing systems for almost every style of rooftop, like non-penetrating railing for flat or low-slope roofs, parapet mounted railing, metal roof railing, and more. Pre-fabricated railings can be permanently affixed, or portable to suit your needs. Regardless of which type you use, once in place, you'll find rails to be the easiest fall protection system to use.

### 2. Select the Proper PPE

If you're going to use Personal Fall Arrest Systems (PFAS), you need to ensure you're choosing the proper equipment. All full-body harnesses that meet ANSI standards will perform the same, despite their cost, however, that price differential is getting you something. Sometimes its extra D-rings, fireproof material or arc-safe design. Sometimes, a more expensive harness is more expensive simply because it's been made to be more comfortable. Do your research and decide what you really need.

Lanyards need to be properly selected as well. Depending on the height at which you are working, a 6' lanyard with a deceleration device will not protect your worker. Instead, a retractable lanyard may be necessary. Each situation is different, so you need to evaluate your working conditions and the task to be performed in order to give your employees something that will actually protect them.

### 3. Inspect Your PPE

Employees can use all the equipment they want, but if they're not inspecting it, it could fail anytime. When it comes to harnesses and lanyards, while they need to be periodically inspected by a competent person (one with the knowledge to recognize the hazard AND the authority to correct it), they should also be inspected by the user prior to every use.

### 4. Ensure You Understand Fall Distance

You can wear all the fall protection equipment in the world, but if it allows you to hit the lower level before it engages, it's pointless. First, you have to add 3.5' of distance to account for the deployment of your deceleration device. Already that means the lanyard itself is 9.5' long. Unless you are a 6" tall person, this is some pretty bad news. Your actual fall distance needs not only include the length of your lanyard when deployed, but also your body length below the D-ring and any sag in your harness and anchor system. Count on a good 18.5' minimum before you're able to use a 6' lanyard with deceleration device.

### 5. Ensure the Selection of Acceptable Anchor Point

Many more things will NOT be an acceptable anchor point than WILL be an acceptable anchor point. The anchor point must support not only the weight of the person attached but 5000 lbs. per person attached (or a factor of 2 if you're having an engineer determine your anchor). Many fixtures are not going to withstand those forces. Structural steel using a proper beam clamp? Sure. To see an example of a compliant and easy to install anchor point, take a look at the Weightanka deadweight anchor.

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