



Worker safety is important on any construction job. Working on roofs is no exception. Falls account for more serious injuries and deaths in construction than anything else. **In 2020, 6 of the 18 fatalities in Washington State construction were caused by falls.**

Accidents occur not only to those building roofs, but also people maintaining, cleaning, demolishing, and inspecting roofs. Any work on a roof is a risk. Protocols for working safe may vary from one job to another, but not providing safeguards is unacceptable.

There are multiple factors that contribute to avoidable accidents while working on roofs.

- Pitch of the roof – the steeper the pitch, the more difficult it is to maintain your footing.
- Moisture – rain, snow or frost may cause slippery conditions on the roof.
- Dirt or Sawdust – may cause slippery conditions on the roof.
- Footwear – the traction of shoes/boots varies, always wear good traction shoes/boots.
- Tripping hazards – tools, electrical cords, etc. can create a tripping hazard.

Considerations for roof work

- **Perform a risk assessment** – identify the risks that will be encountered before performing the specific tasks required for the job.
- **Getting on and off the roof** – this is a major risk point, a secure way to enter and exit the roof is essential.
- **Fall arrest system** – a fall arrest system is required if a worker may fall from an elevated position.
- **Falling Material** – maintain good housekeeping on the roof to stop material or tools that could fall and injure someone below.
- **Training** – roof workers need the knowledge, skills, and experience to work safely.
- **Weather conditions** – work should not occur during icy, rainy, or windy conditions.
You can easily be blown off a roof when carrying roofing materials.
- **Ladders and scaffolding** – make sure they are structurally sound and installed properly.

If you have questions, talk to your supervisor.

Safe Work Practices

- Keep your center of gravity low and over your feet.
- Keep your knees bent and be aware of things around you.
- Don't carry too much or have your hands too full.
- Don't drop things or let them roll off the roof.
- Go up and down ladders facing the ladder.