



Worker safety is important in any construction job. Working on roofs is no exception. Falls account for more serious injuries and deaths in construction than anything else. Accidents can occur with those building roofs and people maintaining, cleaning, demolishing, and inspecting roofs. Any work on a roof is high risk. Working safely on a roof may vary from one job to another, but not providing safeguards is unacceptable.

Factors that contribute to potential 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 and boots vary, so always wear shoes or boots with good traction.
- **Tripping hazards** – tools, electrical cords, etc., can create a tripping hazard.

Pre-planning for roof work

- **Risk assessment** – identify the risks and hazards before performing the specific tasks.

- **Getting on and off the roof** – find a secure way to enter and exit the roof.
- **Fall arrest system** – a fall arrest system is required if a worker may fall from elevation.
- **Falling Material** – maintain good housekeeping on the roof to stop falling material.
- **Training** – roof workers need the knowledge, skills, and experience to work safely.
- **Weather conditions** – work should not occur during icy, rainy, or windy conditions.
- **Ladders and scaffolding** – ensure 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.
- Do not carry too much or have your hands too full.
- Do not drop things or let them roll off the roof.
- Go up and down ladders facing the ladder.

Resources

https://www.osha.gov/video/wa_fallprotection/wa_fallprotection_roofing.html

<https://lni.wa.gov/safety-health/safety-rules/chapter-pdfs/WAC296-880.pdf>

<http://wisha-training.lni.wa.gov/training/presentations/CompChartFallProtReqs.pdf>