

WORKING ON ROOFS

Part of a worker's duties may require them to perform maintenance at heights such as on a roof.

Even if maintenance projects on a roof may be short tasks, fall protection must still be worn as part of the planning process before the work starts to prevent a fall.

ROOF SAFETY:

- DEVELOPING A WRITTEN FALL PROTECTION PLAN
- CONTROL ZONES & SAFETY MONITOR SYSTEM
- TYPES OF FALL PROTECTION



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DEVELOPING A WRITTEN FALL PROTECTION PLAN

Prior to working on a roof, a written fall protection plan will need to be developed. Any work over 25 feet requires a written fall protection plan. The plan should identify the type of fall protection device to be used, hazards and rescue procedures in the event of a fall.

CONTROL ZONES & SAFETY MONITOR SYSTEM

If a fall restraint system is not be practical or permanent guardrails do not provide protection against a fall on low pitched roofing (less than 4.5 feet), a **control zone** should be established and a safety monitor posted.

Is the situation applicable?

- Is the roof grade lower than 4.5 feet in pitch or level?
- Is a fall restraint system impractical?
- Are current guardrails inadequate as per OHS guidelines?

Setting up the control zone

- Use high visibility marking lines or rigged material to rope of the control zone
- Control zone should be marked 6.5 feet (or 2m) from the edge of the walking surface, roof, etc.

Posting a safety monitor

- The safety monitor is in place to observe work tasks (eight workers max) and assess worker safety relating to heights and falls
- The safety monitor should not be engaged in other duties while acting in this role
- The safety monitor should be instantly distinguishable and be positioned with a clear, unobstructed view of workers

If the work surface is sloped greater than outlined above, or a control zone cannot be established, then further fall protection systems need to be established.

OTHER TYPES FALL PROTECTION SYSTEMS

- **GUARDRAILS:** Existing guardrails can act as fall protection if they are well-maintained and installed according to OHS regulations.
- **FALL RESTRAINT:** A fall restraint system is designed to protect a worker from falling lower than the surface of work. This system can sometimes limit movement which decreases some hazards but may hinder the worker from being able to carry out the work task at hand.
- **FALL ARREST:** This system must be designed to “arrest” or stop you before hitting the lower surface if a fall occurs. It should provide the freedom to walk up to a fall hazard area to do your work. Where you need full access to your working surface, a fall arrest system is typically a better option.

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