

Overview of Fall Hazards While Roofing

Roofs are full of potential hazards and roofing falls can lead to serious injuries. Before starting a job, identify all fall hazards and fall protection needs to keep you safe.

Generally, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA)¹ requires fall protection in the construction industry when an employee is exposed to falls of six feet or more. The following overview of fall hazards and protection is a summary of OSHA standards, and is meant to be a high-level review. For a complete overview of fall hazards while roofing, please visit [OSHA.gov](https://www.osha.gov).

Fall hazards

Proper training in recognizing fall hazards at the jobsite can decrease injuries and fatalities. Common fall hazards include:

- Unprotected leading edge work
- Unprotected wall and floor openings
- Hoist areas
- Uncovered holes
- Roof and elevator openings
- Poor working surface integrity
- Unprotected ramps and runways
- Form work and reinforcing steel



guardrails or removing/replacing equipment.

Protect yourself against fall hazards

Plan ahead to get the job done safely. When fall hazards are identified, use the following options to protect workers from fall hazards:

- Guardrails
- Personal fall arrest systems
- Fall protection systems (safety net systems, warning line systems, controlled access zones, safety monitor systems, hole covers)

Fall protection systems should be inspected prior to each workday, and defects should be reported to a supervisor. Take action immediately by repairing covers and

Q&A

Here are some questions to help start conversations around potential fall hazards and fall protection in your workplace:

- What fall protection systems do we use on this jobsite?
- How often should your fall protection system be inspected?
- What should you do if you find defects with the fall protection system?
- What are some of the roofing fall hazards on this job-site?

Want more information? Download the [OSHA Fall Protection in Residential Construction Fact Sheet](#).



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¹ Occupational Safety and Health Administration, Standard 1926.501, 2018