



MSA Safety Talk for Working at Height – Roofs

Toolbox talks are intended to facilitate health and safety discussions on the job site.

Access to roof areas is often required to maintain equipment, carryout construction work and repair structures, however the risk of falling is often high and this type of work is often the cause of fatalities. You will be exposed to the risk of falling off or falling through the roof, unless adequate controls are in place.

Check that a risk assessment and method statement for work at height has been completed before attempting any roof work and that adequate fall prevention arrangements are in place.

Legislation requires that you are provided with a "Safe Place at Work" at all times and this includes safe access and egress to and from the place of work i.e., the roof. HSE guidance notes are precise in that no one shall pass across, or work on, a "fragile" roof.

Fragile roofs must have a warning notice conspicuous to any person likely to go on them, but do not assume because there is no notice that it is OK It may have blown away.

	<p>Check with your Manager, Supervisor or the Site Manager before access is made to any roof structure. Ensure you work safely at all times; do not assume that no signage means that it is safe.</p> <p>All roof work should be planned and safe methods of access, egress and work adopted. If you fall, you die, it is a real risk</p>
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Key Points to consider are:

- Always identify the type of roof construction and covering before starting work, in case it is fragile.
- Understand the fall prevention arrangements in place; if there are none, it is unsafe to proceed with the work.
- On flat roofs, always stay on the marked walkways, if any. Or identify a safe method of work before starting
- Edge protection, guard-rails and toe boards, are required if there is a risk of falling no matter what the height.
- Access must be by staircase or "secured" ladders. Makeshift access e.g., climbing out of a window, jumping over a gap, balancing on a ledge or parapet etc, is not "Safe Access".
- In windy weather, listen to weather forecasts and plan ahead.
- When a safety harness or other safety equipment is provided you must have been trained in its use and you have a duty to use it.
- On sloping roofs suitable roof ladders or crawling boards must be provided or other suitable handhold and foothold. Check with you Supervisor or Manager as to what safe access methods have been agreed.
- On fragile roofs, suitable roof ladders or crawling boards must be provided; properly secured ordinary scaffolding boards are not "suitable". Other means of fall prevention such as netting, crash bags or harnesses are also required. But these are last resorts

and should only be used where other safe means of access such as a MEWP can not be used.

- Think about tools and materials needed on the roof and ensure they are secured both whilst being taken up and whilst being used.
- Think about others under the roof or below the roof edge. Barrier the area off and put up warning signs in case anything does accidentally drop.
- Remember the roof light is the most dangerous area, controls and protection of roof lights must be set out in a risk assessment and the control measures should be fully in place.

Toolbox Attendance

Questions? _____

Concerns? _____

Days since Last Incident: _____

Supervisor/Meeting Leader: _____ Date: _____

Signatures of attendees:

Manager review comments:

Manager signature: _____ Date of Review: _____