

Residential Roofing Practices

Residential roofing is a difficult area to focus on because so many methods of fall protection are unable to be used due to the construction methods by which houses are erected. As we learned before Personal fall arrest systems consist of an anchorage point, lifeline, and body harness. In residential construction finding an appropriate anchor point can be nearly impossible before roof sheathing is completed.

Management Directive

Discuss safe work practices that can reduce the potential for falls when framing and sheathing a roof with you employees. Review alternative methods of fall protection when roofing a residential house.

Roofing Today

Today the average roof peak is about 38 feet with a slope of 8:12 or steeper. Compute the added height for a sloping lot and you find yourself over 50 feet from the ground. A fall from this height could easily do major harm or death. Here are some practices that can keep your employees safe at work.

- A slide guard the length of the roof should be installed following the bottom row or sheathing
- Slide guards must be no less than 4" in nominal height
- Additional slide guards must be installed no greater than every 13 feet up the roof pitch
- 9:12 or greater pitches require slide guards every 4 feet
- 6:12-8:12 pitches require slide guards every 8 feet

Fall Protection Options

Anchor points can be purchased to install on residential houses for both temporary and permanent use.

- Permanent models attach to joists, rafters, or roof members, typically 2x8, 2x10, 2x12
- Temporary models attach to the roof sheathing with nails and provide a 5000 lb anchor point
 - ★ Nails should be approved by manufacturer
- Follow all manufacturer guidelines when installing an anchor point

Roofing Hazards

When working on a roof there is no protection from the weather. Sheathing operations should be suspended when wet weather is present. Frost, ice, or rain increases the potential for slips and falls. Also windy conditions, when stronger than 20 mph, can cause a worker to lose his or her balance and fall. Shoe type is important when roofing; although boots are required throughout the jobsite, they might not be applicable on the roof. Tennis shoes with a gripping sole can provide a more secure connection to the roof.

Roofer Training

Employees working on a roof should be trained in safe working practices. They should know how to:

- Inspect roof for slipping hazards
- What type of footwear is appropriate
- When to suspend work due to bad weather
- Erect and dismantle slide guards
- Use any alternative fall protection, such as an anchor point or safe-T strap
- Properly mark and cover any openings in the roof

Other Safe Roofing Practices

- Workers should not be allowed to ascend or descend within 6' of an edge, except when work would be interfered
- Materials should not be stored within 6' of an edge, except 3' for tile roof systems
- Impalement hazards must be guarded with appropriate caps



Safety Review Quiz

- 1. How does roof pitch affect slide guard installation?
- 2. What are some of the hazards associated with roofing?
- 3. When should roofing operations be suspended?
- 4. What are some of the areas where roofers should be trained?
- 5. What alternatives are their for fall protection in roofing?

Roofing Operations Sign-Off Sheet

Company Name: _____

Date: _____ Location: _____

Safety Topic: _____

Instructor: _____

Employee Name	Employee Signature
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