

TOPIC: Protective Measures For Roof Work

Training Tips:

Ask a lot of questions: While delivering your Safety Talk, ask questions that ‘hook the mind’ and engage your participants. The simple act of asking questions is a High Impact Training technique!

Raise a hand when asking questions: Directed to your audience, you’ll often find that people are more willing to answer your questions and become active participants... try it out! Also, pause for a moment after asking a question; waiting for and encouraging responses from the group.

Provide an example of a personal experience: (or a recent news event) For instance: “A close friend of mine once _____”, or “Just last week _____”. This is a very effective method to help participants relate to your topic. It often helps them to realize: ‘Yeah, this could affect me. I should listen to this.’



ASK: How many of you have experienced uneasiness or the feeling of losing control of your body while you were on a roof? *(Pause and wait for hands to be shown)*

It’s a horrible feeling isn’t it? Have you been in or experienced an incident or near miss from working at heights?

For those of you who didn’t raise your hand, I am certain you know of someone who has!

ACKNOWLEDGE: Thank you for being here and participating in this safety talk. I know your time is valuable, so I will ensure every moment of this talk is worth your while *(make eye contact with the entire group)*.

What’s in it for Me? (WIIFM): Every year people are killed or injured while working on a roof, to the extent that their quality of life will never be the same. Today we’re doing a brief safety talk about taking protective measures while you are performing roof work. If an incident occurs where someone falls from heights chances are it’s going to be very serious or even catastrophic, luckily there are lots of measures to take that will help you avoid this.



ASK: Within the roofing industry, it is not uncommon to see workers working unprotected. Perhaps they feel that their experience will help save their life if they lose their footing and fall? Or maybe, their “athletic” ability will save their neck from braking when they hit the ground. Do these statements sound ridiculous to you? They should, because we are all human and make mistakes despite our athletic ability or experience.

Let’s look at some ways we can mitigate our risks when working at heights.

Unsafe roofing acts and conditions

- **Housekeeping** – Roofing incidents can occur because of poor housekeeping. Leaving tools, objects such as old shingles lying around or cords running across unnecessary spots can lead to tripping hazards, or worse falling off the roof. Ensure that tools and objects are not lying around where work is taken place.
- **Weather Conditions** – One unsafe condition that we cannot control is adverse weather. Rain and wind can significantly affect the worker’s ability to perform work safely and a serious hazard. Postpone roof work where conditions may be slippery or wind is over powering.
- **Defective/improper Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)** – Wearing the proper PPE is essential but it needs to be worn properly and in good condition to be effective. Before donning PPE, perform a proper inspection of the equipment and ensure it is properly fitted to your body.
- **Fragile Roof Conditions** – Roof work can often lend itself to less than ideal conditions. Roofs can be old and no longer safe to withstand the weight of people or equipment. Ensure a proper inspection takes place before work commences and unsafe conditions are either corrected or cordoned off.



ASK: All these unsafe acts and conditions can make for some very bad situations. I want you take a second here and really think what some of the outcomes could be. For example, what if someone left a cord from a power tool lying across the roof and you backed into it and fell off the roof backwards?

Now think, what if that happened and your harness wasn’t properly secured or if you didn’t have one on at all?

ASK: What are some measures we can take to prevent a roofing incident here at (insert company name here)? (Wait for or add the following responses)

- Do not perform roofing duties until you are properly trained on the Safe Work Procedures developed for that job.
- If you are unsure, ask your supervisor.
- Never perform any roofing duties alone or without proper supervision. Perform inspections of the work site and equipment before beginning workake all necessary precautions when it comes to your fall protection (adjust it properly, always have it attached to your anchor, ensure all parts of it are in good condition, etc)

Legal Requirements as per the Manitoba Workplace Safety and Health Act and Regulation:

- Workers must be protected from falling when working at a height of 3 meters (10 feet) or more
- Workers must be protected from falling at a height of less than 3 meters (10 ft) where there is an increased risk of injury due to the surface or item on which the worker may land on (operating or moving machinery, water or another liquid, into a hazardous substance, through an opening of a work surface)
- Employers must develop Safe Work Procedures for each specific job
- Employers must train all workers in the Safe Work Procedures
- Employers must provide fall protection systems for all projects (floor opening protection, fall arrest systems, guardrails, warning barriers)
- Workers must use all Personal Protective Equipment provided by their employer

***Disclaimer:** Any references to legislation such as the Manitoba Workplace Safety and Health Act or Regulation or Standards, Codes of Practices or Guidelines are for convenience sake only. The original text must be consulted for all intents and purposes of applying and interpreting the law.*

Facilitator, remember to:

1. Ask for the commitment of your employees,
2. Answer all questions,
3. Thank them for their time and
4. Document that this safety talk occurred.

RECORD OF SAFETY TALK	
Protective Measures For Roof Work	
Company Name:	Work Location Dept.:
Talk Given by:	Date / Time:

Results of inspection, demonstration or other activity or suggestions during talk:

List of All Employees Who Attended the Safety Talk:	
Name (PRINT)	<i>Signature</i>
1.	
2.	
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Signed: _____ Position Held: _____