

ROOFTOP SAFETY

When working on rooftops it is important to remember that every rooftop is different and that

hidden hazards may exist. Rooftop hazards may be disguised to blend in and may present hazards that appear to be less critical than they are. Don't just walk out on the rooftop and set up work. There are always hazards when dealing with rooftop work, some examples are:

- Hatch doors
- Skylights
- False ceilings
- Manholes
- Stair and ladder openings
- Leading edge/fall hazards

During work on rooftops, it is very common that the people, who work in the building daily, have the same access as the employees performing the work. Extra caution must be taken to assure that civilians are prevented from entering any hazard areas created by construction activities. Additionally, streets and thoroughfares are commonly found at the base of the buildings under construction, be sure to properly control access into these hazard areas and install appropriate signs to warn the public.



To combat all these hazards and others, be sure to utilize an SPA to properly break down the work tasks. Proper mitigation first depends on the ability to identify work related hazards and their involvement with the planned work activity

Aware and Prepared

Be aware of drop to below hazards:

- Don't place tools or equipment on parapet walls.
- Cover floor holes when personnel will be affected by them.
- Barricade affected work zones below the work and post signs. If barricading is impractical designate a spotter.
- If the work area impedes a street or roadway, be sure to utilize a Traffic Control Plan.

Identify any fall hazards and what areas will require a primary fall protection system and/or fall protection PPE:

- Parapet wall height should be approximately 42 inches.
- Utilize 6-foot leading edge protection when the erection of fixed barricades is impractical.
- Assess the area for floor openings or voids that a person could fall through.
- Remember that access ways like hatch doors and even normal stairways may require fall protection PPE.
- Long ladders without landings and incomplete handrail systems may expose you to a fall.
- Do not overload elevators!

Radio Frequency (RF) in extreme situations is hazardous in the form of heat.

Rooftops are often loaded with multiple carriers and other communications antennas. Prior to accessing a rooftop, personnel shall identify potential RF Hazards:

- Omni antennas and broadcast antennas are common sources of radio frequency hazards.
- Use your RF monitor and assure that it has been properly calibrated.

- ☐☐ Watch for antenna farms i.e., highly congested rooftops with numerous antennas.
- ☐☐ Maintain appropriate distances from antennas whenever possible.

6-foot tie-off policy:

- ☐☐ When working at elevations, company, and occupational regulations mandate that employees working over 6 be protected by a fall protection system.
- ☐☐ Remember that parapet wall height should be approximately 42 inches
- ☐☐ In the event that a parapet wall is less than the required height, another means of fall protection shall be made available.
- ☐☐ Fall restraint, fall arrest, and leading-edge protection are all examples of secondary fall protection equipment and can be used if proper handrails are not in place or if a parapet wall is too short.
- ☐☐ If an ice bridge is over six feet in height, fall protection must be used to access it, *DO NOT* walk on an ice bridge over 6 feet high without being properly tied off, it is considered free climbing.
- ☐☐ Use 6-foot leading edge protection identified with red tape when the fall hazard area is continuously changing or the work area is temporary.