



TOOLBOX TALK #49

Monday Morning Safety Reminders

Vol. 1 No. 49

ROOF SAFETY

Roof construction, repair and other operations often require that we perform tasks at dangerous heights. The first rule of working from heights is to understand that you don't have to be all that high to be seriously injured. You can get hurt falling while standing flat on the ground, so every foot of elevation increases the impact and potential for physical injury. At times we can face additional hazards related to steeply pitched work surfaces. The potential for missteps, falling objects and serious injury is high in such instances, unless we make it safe.

Training is essential for any person working from heights of four feet or higher. This training will encompass safety harnesses, lanyards and lifelines. In certain circumstances, we will utilize a catch platform or a safety net. Your training will cover the procedures for all types of fall protection. Lifelines, lanyards and harnesses shall be used only for fall protection, and never used for lifting or loading. Similarly, rope or cable used for hoisting are never to be used as lifelines. **Tools and hardware must be properly secured when working on a roof, especially a pitched roof. Falling objects can represent a potentially lethal threat to workers on the ground. If you are working below a crew on the roof, consider moving to another location if this is practical. If it is not, be certain your co-workers are aware of your presence.**

In addition to your training, the most important habit for you to learn is to closely inspect your fall protection equipment. Not just in the morning, but throughout the day. Frayed lanyards should be discarded and replaced. Any damaged fall protection equipment or any components thereof should be taken out of service and replaced. Fall protection equipment must be 100% effective.

Facilitator Notes: Have your fall protection gear on hand for this talk. Your crew has heard all this before, but get them involved by conducting a group inspection of their equipment. Discuss the current job site and review any roof safety issues that can be readily identified. Instill the professionalism of your crew by reminding them that only a small percentage of the workforce has the temerity to work from heights, but the responsibilities for doing this safely are what makes them unique as professional construction crew members.

Additional Notes: _____

Crew Member Comments: _____

Presented By: _____ **Date/Time** _____

Attendees: _____

List additional attendees on back of sheet