



General Roofing Requirements

Revised June 2019

About 30 percent of injuries to roofers are a result of falls or slips, which are likely to cause the most serious injuries. All roofers must be protected from falls on roofs over 20 feet high (15 feet on new production residential roofs), depending on roof slope (measured from ground level to lowest portion of eaves). *Red italics indicate where you must customize the content of this tailgate meeting for your job site's equipment and conditions. Discuss the following fall protection systems, as applicable to your job site.*

Personal Fall Protection. *If applicable, discuss the type of system that will be used (e.g., fall arrest, restraint and/or positioning system), how suitable anchor points will be established, and how the fall protection program will be effectively implemented.*

Catch Platforms. *If applicable, discuss that they must be fully planked, be in close proximity below the eaves, extend at least 2 feet beyond the projection of the eaves, and be provided with standard railings and toe boards.*

Scaffold Platforms. *If applicable, discuss how the platforms will be properly installed, maintained, and fully planked near the eave level.*

Eave Barriers (not an option for new residential >7:12 slope). *If applicable, discuss how solid barriers will be used or railings properly erected in accordance with standard railing requirements and anchored/supported at eave level. Also discuss how affected employees will be protected via personal fall protection while the barriers/railings are relocated.*

Standard Railings and Toe Boards. *If applicable, discuss how they will be properly erected, secured, and maintained.*

Roof Jack Systems (not an option for new residential >7:12 slope). *If applicable, discuss how they will be constructed so that:*

- they fit the roof slope and sustain expected loads, with the support plank at an angle between perpendicular to the roof to horizontal
- the spans between jacks are 10 feet or less
- only first-grade Manila rope at least ¾-inch diameter, or equivalent strength, is used to support roof jacks
- wooden support members spanning between jacks are selected lumber and at least 2 x 6 inches, or non-wood members are of equivalent strength.

Crawling Boards. *If applicable, discuss how the following will be accomplished:*

- Make crawling boards at least 10 inches wide and 1 inch thick
- Nail cleats (at least 1-inch x 1 ½-inch material, equal in length to the width of the board) so they are spaced evenly, no more than 24 inches apart, with nails driven through and bent underneath
- Whenever possible, extend crawling boards from the ridgepole to the eaves
- Securely attach to the roof by ridge hooks or equivalently effective means
- Install firmly fastened handholds made of ¾-inch Manila rope or equivalent for each crawling board.

High-lift Material Trucks.

When the platform is used as a work surface at 7 ½ feet elevation, use standard railings and toe boards on the open sides.

Ramps and Runways Used Exclusively for Loading/Unloading Roofing Materials. *If applicable, discuss how the following will be accomplished:*

- Make them at least 40 inches wide at heights up to 20 feet
- Install and maintain standard guardrails on both sides at heights exceeding 20 feet

Discussion Questions

- What are the slopes of the roofs you will be working on?
- What fall protection is required on this job and what role do you play in implementing it?
- How often should fall protection be inspected?
- What might indicate a problem with the fall protection system and who do you contact if you think there is a problem?
- What else can be done to make your work safer?

Disclaimer

This information is not meant to be either a substitute for or legal interpretation of the occupational safety and health regulations. Readers must refer directly to title 8 of the California Code of Regulations for details regarding the scope, specifications, and exceptions and for other requirements that may apply to their operations.

This topic covers section [1724](#), General Requirements. Also refer to sections [1730](#) (Roofing Hazards) and [1731](#) (Roofing Hazards - New Production Type Residential Construction) for additional requirements not covered by this topic.

This Toolbox Topic is an overview and does not, by itself, qualify as the training required by section [1509](#) and [Article 30](#). Employees must be trained to ensure specific awareness of the fall hazards associated with roofing work, including:

- Work on or near gable ends,
- Slipping hazards,
- Roof holes and openings,
- Skylights,
- Work on ladders and scaffolds,
- Access to roof,
- Placement and location of materials on the roof,
- Impalement hazards, and
- Care and use of fall protection systems.

Make sure you document this training and have those records readily available.

Resources

Title 8, California Code of Regulations: www.dir.ca.gov/Title8Index/t8index.asp

Personal Fall Protection - Section [1670](#)

Catch Platforms - Section [1724\(c\)](#)

Scaffold Platforms - Section [1724\(d\)](#)

Eave Barriers - Section [1724\(e\)](#)

Standard Railings and Toe boards - [Article 16](#)

Roof Jack Systems - Section [1724\(a\)](#)

Crawling Boards - Section [1724\(b\)](#)

High-Lift Material Trucks - Section [1724\(g\)](#)

Ramps and Runways - Section [1724\(h\)](#)

Roofing Operations and Equipment - [Article 30](#)

[Cal/OSHA Publications](http://www.dir.ca.gov/dosh/PubOrder.asp): www.dir.ca.gov/dosh/PubOrder.asp

Cal/OSHA Consultation Service: 1-800-963-9424; InfoCons@dir.ca.gov; www.dir.ca.gov/dosh/consultation.html

