

## Roofing Fall Hazards (Excluding Residential)

Revised December 2025

Slips or falls account for about 30 percent of injuries to roofers and are likely to cause the most serious injuries. We are addressing slip and fall hazards associated with roofing. *Red italics indicate where you must customize the content of this tailgate meeting for your job site's equipment and conditions. Discuss the following, as applicable to your job site.*

### Single-unit roof coverings with slopes 0:12 – 4:12

For such roofs higher than 20 feet (or regardless of height when backward-pulled equipment is used) and there is no use of personal fall protection, catch or scaffold platforms, eave barriers, standard railings, or parapets at least 24 inches high (36 inches high if backward-pulled equipment is used), certain precautions must be used.

*Discuss and identify the roofs that meet this criteria, if backward-pulling or ridden equipment is to be used, and which of the following fall protection methods are to be implemented:*

- Warning lines with a minimum tensile strength of 500 pounds, highly visible flags every 6 feet, 34 to 45 inches above the roof surface.  
*Discuss how the warning lines will:*
  - *Be situated no closer than 5 feet from the roof edge, or 10 feet when headers are not feasible or equipment ridden on or pulled backwards is used.*
  - *Have stanchions (i.e., uprights) designed and installed to minimize tip over or displacement. Portable stanchions will not be moved except when warning lines are being moved as work progresses.*
  - *Be attached at each stanchion so that pulling on one section of the line between stanchions will not result in slack being taken up in adjacent sections before the stanchion tips over.*
- Place headers at the roof edges, where feasible. *Discuss what headers will consist of (sheets of roofing or other materials).*
- Warning lines and headers:
  - Placed parallel to the roof edges,

perpendicular to the direction backward-pulled or ridden equipment is operated.

- Erected around the roof perimeter. *If not erected around the whole perimeter, discuss how the warning lines/headers are to be moved as the work progresses to provide continuous warning.*
- Access paths are to be established by two warning lines and closed off when not in use. *Discuss how rope, wire or chain used to close paths will be of equal strength/height to the warning lines.*
- All personnel must stay inside the warning lines/headers.  
*Discuss the exceptions where work must be performed at the roof edge or warning lines/headers are not practical (in which case how the work will be closely monitored by a qualified person).*
  - Backward-pulled equipment will be used no closer than 3 feet from the roof edge that is parallel to the direction of travel.
  - Ridden equipment will not be used or stored between the warning line and roof edge.

### Single-unit roof coverings with slopes > 4:12, height > 20 feet

*Discuss how employees will be protected by one or more of the following: parapets at least 24 inches high; personal fall protection; catch platforms; scaffold platform; eave barriers; or standard toe boards and railings. For ridden equipment designed for sloped roofs, a parapet wall at least 36 inches high and perpendicular to direction of travel is adequate protection. Do not use backward-pulled equipment.*

(continued on next page)

## Multiple-unit roof coverings with slopes 0:12-5:12, height > 20 feet

*Discuss how employees will be protected by a roof jack system, parapets at least 24 inches high, or an equivalent means.*

## Multiple-unit roof coverings with slopes > 5:12, height > 20 feet

*Discuss how employees will be protected by one or more of the following: parapets at least 24 inches high, personal fall protection, catch platforms, scaffold platforms, eave barriers, or roof jacks (personal fall protection must be used with roof jacks on slopes greater than 7:12).*

### Discussion Questions

- What are the heights and slopes of the roofs you will be working on?
- What is the required fall protection on this job and what role do you play in implementing it?
- Who is the qualified person?
- What else can be done at this worksite to make your work safer?

### Disclaimer

Refer to section **1730**, as well as **1723 through 1729** of title 8 of the California Code of Regulations, for details on all of the specific requirements and particular exceptions to those requirements for roofing hazards. This tailgate toolbox topic summarizes section 1730. Section **1731** applies instead for roofing work on residential construction. Refer to the Tailgate/Toolbox Topic Roofing Fall Hazards (Residential) and section 1731 for details.

This toolbox topic is intended as an overview and does not, by itself, qualify as the training required by sections **1509** and **1510**. 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.
- Roof access.
- Placement and location of materials on the roof.
- Impalement hazards.
- Care and use of fall protection systems.

The information provided is not meant to be either a substitute for or legal interpretation of the occupational safety and health regulations. Readers are cautioned to refer directly to title 8 of the California Code of Regulations for detailed information regarding the regulation's scope, specifications, and exceptions, and for other requirements that may apply to their operations.

Customize this toolbox safety meeting and cover the issues that pertain to the specific types of equipment and procedures at your jobsite.

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

### Resources:

- Cal/OSHA **Pocket Guide for the Construction Industry**
- Cal/OSHA **Construction Safety Orders**
  - Section **1509**
  - Section **1510**
  - Personal Fall Protection **1670**.
  - Sections **1723-1731**
    - Catch Platforms Section **1724(c)**.
    - Scaffold Platforms Section **1724(d)**.
    - Eave Barriers Section **1724(e)**.
    - Roof Jack Systems Section **1724(a)**.
  - Standard Railings and Toeboards **Article 16**.
- Cal/OSHA **Publications**
  - **Tailgate Topics**



This document is available with active links at [www.dir.ca.gov/dosh/dosh\\_publications](http://www.dir.ca.gov/dosh/dosh_publications)

For assistance regarding this subject matter, employers may contact

**Cal/OSHA Consultation Services** at 1-800-963-9424 or [InfoCons@dir.ca.gov](mailto:InfoCons@dir.ca.gov)

[www.dir.ca.gov/dosh/consultation.html](http://www.dir.ca.gov/dosh/consultation.html)

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**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Person conducting the meeting:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name:** (Print)

**Signature**

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