

Cal Poly

Code of Safe Practice

Roof Safety – Roof Installation, Replacement, Repair, Roof Maintenance and Inspection

Safe practices require that personal fall protection devices and/or procedures be used whenever an employee is exposed to a potential fall.

***BE AWARE! Know where the roof edge is! Check for fall hazards!
Use extra caution whenever you are within 6 feet of the edge!***

Scope and Application:

- Roofing installation, replacement, repair, maintenance, and inspection
- Gutter and roof drain cleaning and maintenance (Does not include work on downspouts or other piping)
- Does not include framing or sheathing operations
- Does not include equipment maintenance and/or inspection

General Prohibitions: Restricted Conditions

These conditions require the use of fall protection regardless of the activity, unless there is a 42” guardrail or parapet.

- Any work on a clay tile roof where the potential perimeter fall height is more than 7-1/2 feet.
- Any work on a sheet metal roof that is wet, slippery, or has a pitch greater than 5:12 (22°) and has a potential perimeter fall height of more than 7-1/2 feet.
- Any work over glass at any height where there is the potential to fall through the glass. **The fall protection system must be designed to prevent contact with the glass surface in the event of a fall.**
- Any work on a roof with a pitch of 7:12 (30°) or greater that has a potential perimeter fall height of more than 7-1/2 feet.
- Any work within 6 feet of a skylight or opening unless the skylight or opening has an adequate cover, screen, or is protected by a guardrail. NOTE: A skylight is any clear or translucent roof surface.
- When using a pneumatic nailer on a roof with a pitch greater than 1:3 (14°) and a potential perimeter fall height of more than 7-1/2 feet.

General Requirements:

- Anyone working on a roof must have a means of requesting assistance either by radio, cell phone, or direct visual/audio contact with a co-worker with a radio or cell phone.
- Prior to any roof work requiring fall protection or subject to a fall protection plan personnel must confirm that they can contact University Police Dispatch (805) 756-2281. Use 911 for actual emergencies only.
- Any roof work, requiring fall protection or subject to a fall protection plan, must be done by a minimum crew of two people. Crews of two people are strongly recommended for all other roof work.
- Anyone working on a roof or wearing fall protection must be adequately trained.
- All fall protection plans must be written by a “qualified person” and implemented by a “competent person”.
- A fall hazard is removed when protected by a 42” tall guardrail or parapet.
- Roof work more than 6 feet from an edge or opening is allowed without fall protection unless the roof condition is restricted in the “General Prohibitions”.
- When accessing a roof through a hatch, close the hatch once on the roof to protect the hatch opening.
NOTE: The hatch does not need to be latched, just closed.
- When accessing a roof from a fixed or portable ladder, fall protection is not required to cross the 6’ zone at the ladder unless the roof condition is restricted in the “General Prohibitions”.

Roofing Safety Procedures:

- Work is allowed, without fall protection, on any roof up to 20 feet in height unless the roof condition is restricted in the “General Prohibitions”.
- Work is allowed, without fall protection, on any roof over 20 feet in height if the roof edge has a 24” parapet wall, unless the roof condition is restricted in the “General Prohibitions”.
- Roof inspections (Inspection, measurement, and assessment ONLY) are allowed on any roof area not restricted in the “General Prohibitions”. The inspection must be performed by a crew of 2 when working above 20’. Special care must be taken to assess fall hazards.

Emergency Procedures:

- If a fall occurs attempt to self-rescue.
- If unable to self-rescue contact University Police Dispatch at 756-2281, 911, or by radio, as appropriate. Identify your location, that a fall has occurred, and that rescue is needed. Do not hang up until directed to do so by Dispatch personnel.