

Cal Poly

Code of Safe Practice

Roof Safety – Roof Mounted Equipment Installation, Repair, Maintenance and Inspections

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:

- **Roof mounted equipment-**
 - **Installation**
 - **Repair**
 - **Maintenance**
 - **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.
- 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.
- Any equipment maintenance above 7-1/2 feet and within 6 feet of an unprotected edge must be performed while wearing fall protection unless a fall protection plan is in place.
- 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:

- Any equipment maintenance above 7-1/2 feet and within 6 feet of an unprotected edge must be performed while wearing fall protection unless a fall protection plan is in place.