Roof work toolbox talk

Work at height · about 5 minutes · read it out, or say it in your own words

SITE OR JOB	DATE	PRESENTER

A roof puts an edge, a slope and a surface that may not hold you all in one place. Clear roof sheets, old fibre-cement sheets, rusted sheeting and ceiling boards can look solid and give way under one step. The Construction Regulations add extra duties for roof work on top of the normal fall protection rules.

SAY THIS

Plan it before anyone goes up

Roof work must be planned, and our fall protection plan must cover it. Only competent roof erectors work on the roof. Before you go up, know how you will get up and down, where the edges and fragile areas are, and where you will clip on if you need a harness.

Fragile means you fall through

Treat these as if they are holes: clear sheets and skylights, old fibre-cement sheets, rusted or thin sheeting, and anything you are not sure of. Never stand or kneel on them, and never step on them to reach something. To work across or near them, use crawl boards, roof ladders or platforms that spread your weight onto the structure, and cover or rail off skylights. If old sheets might contain asbestos, stop and ask before you cut, drill or break them.

Guard the edges

At the eaves and gable ends we put up guardrails, barriers and toe-boards wherever it is reasonably practicable, so people, tools and sheets cannot go over. Where that cannot be done, you work in a harness clipped to an approved anchor, as the plan says. The working at heights talk covers harnesses.

Watch the weather

Nobody works on a roof in bad weather or when conditions make it dangerous. Rain, dew and dust make sheeting slippery. Wind can catch a roof sheet like a sail and pull you off. If you see lightning or hear thunder, come down at once. In summer, sheeting gets very hot in the midday sun, so take water up and take breaks.

Materials on the roof

Tie down bundles of sheets and loose material so the wind cannot lift them. Do not stack anything on fragile sheeting or near the edge. Do not throw off-cuts, screws or old sheets down. Lower them, and keep the area below barricaded so nobody walks underneath.

Inside the roof space

In the roof space, step only on the trusses or on boards laid across them. Ceiling boards will not hold your weight, and a foot through the ceiling can mean a fall into the room below.

CHECK ON SITE TODAY

- ☐ Is roof work in today's fall protection plan, and are the roof erectors competent?
- ☐ Point out every fragile area: skylights, old sheets, rusted sheets, ceiling boards
- ☐ Crawl boards, roof ladders or platforms on hand and in good condition
- ☐ Edge protection at eaves and gables, or approved anchor points for harnesses
- ☐ Wind, rain and storm forecast checked before anyone goes up
- ☐ Area below the roof barricaded and loose material tied down

ASK THE CREW

- ? Which parts of this roof would not hold your weight?
- ? How do we get across a fragile area safely?
- ? What weather would make you come down?
- ? What do we do with off-cuts and old sheets?

PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT FOR THIS JOB

Hard hat · Safety boots with soft, grippy soles suited to roof sheeting · Harness and lanyard where the fall protection plan calls for one · Gloves for handling sheeting with sharp edges · Sun protection: long sleeves, a brim or neck flap, and water

THE LAW

Construction Regulations, 2014, regulation 10(5): Fall protection, roof work; Construction Regulations, 2014, regulation 10(1) to (4): Fall protection; General Safety Regulations, 1986, regulation 12: Roof work. What each one says, in plain words, with links: sitediary.co.za/toolbox-talks/roof-work/

Toolbox talk attendance register

TOPIC

Roof work and fragile roofs

DATE

SITE OR JOB

TIME

PRESENTER

COMPANY

PRESENTER SIGNATURE

By signing, I confirm that I attended this toolbox talk, that it was given in a language I understand, and that I could ask questions.

NO.	NAME AND SURNAME	COMPANY OR TRADE	SIGNATURE
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