

Tool Box Talk-Fall Protection Pre-Planning for Roofers

Pre-Planning for Fall Protection

Pre-planning is essential before construction processes begins. Pre-planning can impact profit and can be a powerful safety tool that can provide an injury-free workplace. Pre-Planning can occur at several different construction phases:



Photo Courtesy of ISHM: Workers MUST use fall protection when working on roofs.

- Job start up
- As the job progresses
- When new trades are introduced
- For specific work tasks
- Bid stage

By preplanning you can determine what safety equipment will be needed on each job. Here are some practical questions to ask when preplanning for safety on a residential roofing job:

- 1) Have workers been trained in fall protection & ladders?
- 2) Are there multiple roof levels that will need to be accessed?
- 3) How high is the roof?
- 4) Is the pitch of the roof higher than normal? Will roof bracket scaffolds be needed to stand on?
- 5) Are the electrical service lines in the way of the workers? How will they be protected? Will the power need to be shut off at the street?
- 6) Are the roof anchors useable for this application? Different materials call for different anchors.
- 7) How many roof anchors will be needed to access all of the roof levels?
- 8) Can the work be sequenced in order to reduce the number of anchors needed at one time?
- 9) Can self Retractable Lifelines be used or will workers use rope & rope grab?
- 10) What length ladder will be needed?
- 11) Once on the roof will we need to use a ladder to access other roof levels?

- 12) Is there a chance the ladder could contact electrical lines?
- 13) Will gutters interfere with placing the ladder against the structure?
- 14) Where will materials be stored?
- 15) Where will we throw trash off of the roof? How will we protect the homeowner and workers from falling debris?
- 16) Are there other hazards associated with THIS JOB that we have not yet identified?

Answering these questions will help in the development of a fall protection plan. Always answer these questions when preplanning for safety. It is better to plan ahead, provide tools and materials, and train workers on situations that pose a risk to them; than to show up and try to do the work with no planning involved. Remember the 5 P's: "Proper Planning Prevents Poor Performance!"



This toolbox topic was reviewed by _____ on _____ with the following employees: