

Fall Protection on Roofs (Infosheet FPSR-1)

Falls from roofs happen too often in Nova Scotia. Many of these falls can be prevented if adequate fall protection is worn. This Infosheet describes what fall protection is usually required by the Fall Protection and Scaffolding Regulations when working on various types of roofs.

Note that:

1. In order to make this Infosheet as easy as possible to use, we will only deal with the most common roofing situations here. For complex situations (such as over water or where the “ground” is not the surface one would fall to), you should contact one of the agencies listed below.
2. When the roof is slippery, extra care should be taken.
3. We assume that all devices used meet the requirements of the Fall Protection and Scaffolding Regulations.
4. Adequate precautions are needed on all edges of the roof, including gable ends.

Working from a roof whose edge is less than 3 m (10 feet) from the ground:

Normally no fall protection is required; however the regulations allow the officer to assess and require fall protection in situations other than those listed in section 7(1), an A-frame structure for example.



Fall protection would be required even though the edge of the roof is less than 3 m from the ground.

Fall protection required for various types of roofs over 3 m high:

Situation 1 - Flat Roof

Slope is less than 3/12.

Workers are within 1.0 metres of the edge.

you need one of:

- a fall arrest system that includes a full body harness, a lanyard and an anchor point, or,
- a guardrail in the section of roof where you come closer than 1.0 metres from the edge.

(Note that no fall protection is required on a Situation 1 roof if the workers stay more than 1.0 metre away from the edge).

Situation 2 - Low Slope Roof When Workers Are Away From the Edge

Slope is greater than or equal to 3/12 but less than 6/12.

Workers are not within 1.0 m of the edge.

you need:

- one of
 - a fall arrest system that includes a full body harness, a lanyard and an anchor point, or,
 - a guardrail in the section of roof where you are working.

AND

- one of
 - a fully decked scaffold, or,
 - roof brackets and planks installed at the base of the roof.

Situation 3 - Medium Slope Roof When Workers Are Away From the Edge

Slope is greater than or equal to 6/12 but less than 9/12.

Workers are not within 1.0 m of the edge.

you need:

- one of
 - a fall arrest system that includes a full body harness, a lanyard and an anchor point, or,
 - a guardrail in the section of roof where you are working.

AND

- roof brackets and planks installed as work progresses on the roof.

Situation 4 - Sloped Roof When Workers Are Near the Edge

Slope is greater than or equal to 3/12 but less than 9/12.

Workers are within 1.0 m of the edge.

you need:

- one of:
 - a fall arrest system that includes a full body harness, a lanyard and an anchor point, or,
 - a fully decked scaffold work platform

AND

- roof brackets and planks installed at the edge and as work progresses on the roof.

Situation 5 - Highly Sloped Roof

Slope is greater than or equal to 9/12.

Workers are anywhere on the roof.

you need all of the following:

- a fall arrest system that includes a full body harness, a lanyard and an anchor point,
- a fully decked scaffold work platform
- roof brackets and planks.

How can I learn more?

For more general information about fall protection on roofs, contact:

Nova Scotia Construction Safety Association (NSCSA)

35 MacDonald Avenue

Burnside Industrial Park

Dartmouth, NS B3B 1C6

Phone: (902) 468-6696

Toll-free (within N.S.): 1-800-971-3888

Fax: (902) 468-8843

E-mail: nscsa@nscsa.org

To find out more about the Fall Protection and Scaffolding Regulations, contact:

Occupational Health and Safety Division

Nova Scotia Department of Environment & Labour

5151 Terminal Road, 5th Floor

P.O. Box 697

Halifax, Nova Scotia B3J 2T8

Phone: (902) 424-5400 or 1-800-9LABOUR (in N.S.)

Fax: (902) 424-5640

<http://www.gov.ns.ca/enla/healthandsafety/>