

Roofing Work Can be Deadly

Always use a personal fall arrest system



Personal fall arrest systems protect roofers from injury and death by limiting the distance that people can fall.

Your employer must provide you with a personal fall arrest system that meets Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) and American National Standards Institute (ANSI Z359) requirements. Your employer is also required to train you on how to use this equipment.

What is a personal fall arrest system?

A full body harness



Connectors and lanyards to limit fall distance



Tied to a fixed anchor



Employers should refer to OSHA and ANSI Z359 for personal fall arrest system requirements. These images are for illustrative purposes only.

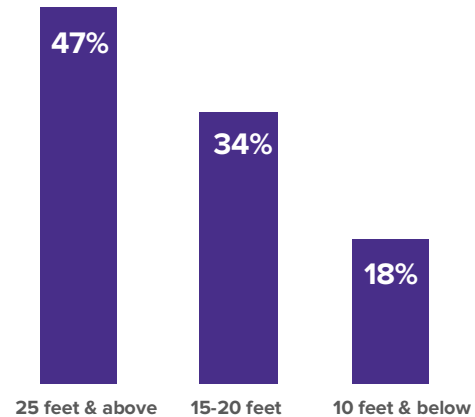
Why Personal Fall Arrest Systems Matter

True stories from the field

- A 20-year-old worker from Honduras died on his second day of work. He was removing shingles into a plastic garbage bin. He lost his balance as he threw the garbage bin into a dump truck below. He died after falling into the dump truck and hitting his head. **Use personal fall arrest systems.**
- A college student on summer break died while working for his family's roofing business. He fell onto a slate and concrete walkway below. He was patching and painting nail holes and wore a harness, but it was not tied-off. **Tie-off your body harness.**
- A roofing supervisor in his 50s died from a 20-foot fall while doing an inspection to see if a roof was safe for workers. He slipped on ice and fell onto the concrete below. **No exceptions! Always use your personal fall arrest system.**

Falls cause 96% of on-the-job roofer deaths

Deadly falls can occur at any height



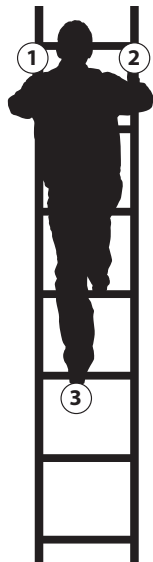
This chart shows the percentage of roofer deaths from falls of different heights.

US Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, NYS Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries (NYS excluding NYC 2002-2016)

Ladder Safety and Other Good Work Practices

Climb the ladder safely

- Always face the ladder to climb.
- Stay balanced and centered on the ladder, "belt buckle rule."
- Always have 3 points of contact on the ladder (see diagram, right).
- Never move the ladder while you are on it.
- Don't carry while you climb.
- Use the NIOSH Ladder Safety App www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/falls/mobileapp.html to choose the right ladder and placement.



Inspect your work area and equipment

- Always use personal fall arrest systems, even when inspecting roof areas.
- Replace worn equipment and gear.
- Check for wind, weather, and slippery conditions.
- Keep work areas neat and orderly.
- Know the property address in case of a 911 emergency.



Go to work rested and alert



- Get a good night's sleep.
- Avoid drugs and alcohol, which can affect balance and judgment.
- Drink plenty of non-caffeinated liquids while you work, especially in hot weather.



Department
of Health