

ROOFING SAFETY

The leading cause of fatalities in the construction industry is falls. According to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), falls accounted for 3,500 fatalities between 2003 and 2013. Of those 3,500 fatalities, 34 percent were the result of falls from roofs.

Roofing contractors are faced with many hazards on the jobsite. Knowing the essentials to protect and train these workers can help keep them safe.

TRAINING FOR FALL PROTECTION

Through this training, employees will learn how to recognize fall hazards and which procedures should be followed to minimize them — including the effective use of fall prevention systems.

Training should be facilitated by a competent person who knows how to properly inspect, assemble and maintain fall protection equipment. Your Amerisure risk management consultant can organize this training and provide guidance on what additional training options are best for your organization.

SCAFFOLDING PROTECTION

Workers are most vulnerable to fall hazards when climbing on or off a scaffold. Providing safe access is key to protecting workers. OSHA requires an approved ladder, ramp, walkway or direct access from another scaffold structure between units.

Similar to fall protection, workers should be trained on the necessary scaffolding requirements and the proper reporting procedures if scaffolding isn't up to standards.

RESCUE OF ROOFING WORKERS

In the event a fall should occur, employers should have a plan for rescuing workers. During a fall, it's important to act quickly. Fall arrest systems can prevent falls from heights, but if a suspended worker is not rescued quickly, suspension trauma may occur.

Keep ladders or other rescue equipment onsite at all times. Ensure they're functioning properly before beginning work for the day. Also make sure supervisors and workers are trained on how to perform a prompt and safe rescue, to prevent further injury.

Amerisure risk management consultants can assist your business in training and protecting roofing contractors. For more information, contact your local consultant at (800) 257-1900 or riskmanagement@amerisure.com.