

TOOL BOX TALKS

Rooftop Warning Lines

Falls from elevations are the leading cause of fatal injuries in the construction industry. In fact, half of all work-related fatal falls in the United States occur in the construction industry. Buildings, structures, scaffolds and ladders are the primary locations from which fatal falls occur in the construction industry. Did you know that one out of every five-workplace fatalities is a construction employee? Review the following information with employees.

WORKSAFE TIPS

FALL FACTS

- The average cost per FALL injury is \$89,793
- Falls off roofs are 3% of all injuries seen by MEM
- Average cost of a fall from a roof is \$63,733

WARNING LINES FOR USE ON:

- Roofs six feet or higher
- Roofs with a slope of 4:12 or less
- Roofs wider than fifty feet
- Roofs with parapet walls less than 39" high

LINE CONSTRUCTION:

- Must have tensile strength of at least 500 lbs.
- Lines must be supported on stanchion posts that can withstand 16 pounds of tipping force.
- The height from the roof surface to the warning line must be within 34 and 39 inches.
- Flag with high-visibility material (flags) every 6 feet minimally.

OPEN EDGES NEAR THE WORK AREA MUST BE GUARDED BY WARNING LINES.

- When mechanical equipment is not used, set the lines in six feet from all edges.
- When mechanical equipment is being used, the lines must be set in 10 feet from the edge in the direction the machine operator is traveling, and six feet on the sides.
- Mechanical equipment cannot be used or stored outside warning lines.
- Roofing materials cannot be stored outside warning lines.
- Protect workers outside the warning lines with a PFAS, guard rails or a safety monitor system.

BEST PRACTICES:

- Warning lines do not stop a fall!
- Take time to use the best fall protection system for the job at hand.
 - Guard rails
 - Personal Fall Arrest System
- In some cases, warning lines create a false sense of security.
- Do everything possible to keep employees from falling from the rooftop!

WARNING LINE IN USE



Is this the correct use of a warning line?

