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Division 2/D
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Walking-Working Surfaces: Designated areas

What is a designated area?

When employees work on a low-slope roof, a non-traditional type of fall protection (the designated area) can be used in special situations. A designated area is a distinct portion of a walking-working surface delineated by a warning line in which employees may work without additional fall protection when performing work on low-slope roofs. A warning line is a rope, wire, tape, or chain that warns the employees that they are approaching an unprotected side or edge.

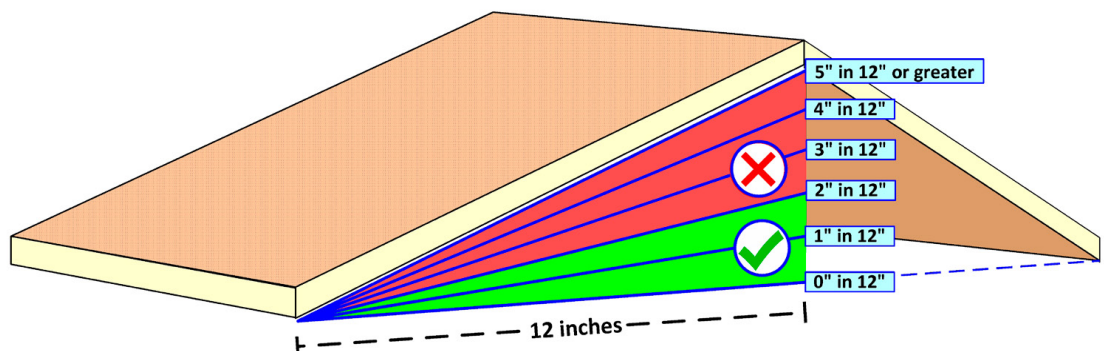
A warning line must meet all of the following requirements:

- Have a minimum breaking strength of 200 pounds
- Be installed so that its lowest point, including sag, is not less than 34 inches and not more than 39 inches above the walking-working surface
- Be supported so that pulling on one section of the line will not result in slack being taken up in adjacent sections causing the line to fall below 34 inches
- Be clearly visible from a distance of 25 feet and anywhere within the designated area
- Be erected as close to the work area as the task permits
- Be erected not less than six feet from the roof edge for work that is infrequent and temporary – or not less than 15 feet for any other work

Employees must remain in the area designated by the warning line while they are working.

Designated areas and fall protection on low-slope roofs

Designated areas cannot be used for work on surfaces other than low-slope roofs. A low-slope roof is a roof that has a slope less than or equal to a ratio of 2 in 12 (vertical to horizontal). Fall protection is required on low-sloped roofs that are four feet or more above a lower level.



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The type of fall protection that employees must use on low-slope roofs depends on the distance they work from the roof edge. (An unprotected skylight is also considered a roof edge.) There are three zones:

Work performed less than 6 feet from the roof edge. Each employee must be protected from falling by a guardrail system, safety net system, travel restraint system, or personal fall arrest system.

Work performed between 6 and 15 feet from the roof edge. Each employee must be protected from falling by one of the following five options:

1. A guardrail system
2. A safety net system
3. A travel restraint system
4. A personal fall arrest system
5. Designated area (work must be **infrequent and temporary**)

Work performed 15 feet or more from the roof edge. Each employee must be protected from falling by one of the following:

1. A guardrail system
2. A safety net system
3. A travel restraint system
4. A personal fall arrest system
5. A designated area (routine work)
6. No fall protection (work must be **infrequent and temporary**)*

*No fall protection is required when the work is **infrequent and temporary** and the employer implements and enforces a work rule that prohibits employees from going within 15 feet of the roof edge without fall protection.

What does infrequent and temporary mean?

Infrequent means that the work is performed occasionally. Infrequent work is usually performed once a year, once a month, or as needed. Examples include annual equipment maintenance, replacing batteries monthly or quarterly, and responding to occasional equipment breakdowns.

Daily, regular, or routine tasks are not infrequent.

Temporary means that the work is brief or short. Temporary work takes less time than the time it takes to set up conventional fall protection. Temporary tasks usually take less than two hours to complete and are not complicated. These tasks can be completed in a single visit without having to climb up and down multiple times. Examples include changing a filter in a rooftop HVAC system, replacing a part on a satellite dish, and resealing the flashing around a skylight.

