

 FACT SHEET

Safety monitoring for roofing work

Division 3, Subdivision M



Oregon OSHA's Division 3, Construction, rules set the requirements for the types of fall-protection systems that can be used to protect employees who are working at heights. Most workers can be protected with conventional fall-protection systems such as guardrails, safety nets, and personal fall-arrest systems.

Other fall-protection systems, however, have a specific purpose and can be used only in certain situations. **Safety monitoring for roofing work** is one of those systems. Roofing work means hoisting, storing, applying, and removing roofing materials and equipment. Roofing work includes work on insulation, sheet metal, and vapor barriers, but does not include construction of the roof deck or the leading edge.

The safety monitor must be a competent person

The safety monitor systems use a person (the safety monitor), rather than a mechanical system to warn roofers when they are six feet or more above a lower level and in danger of falling. The safety monitor, who must be a **competent person**, is responsible for recognizing fall hazards and warning workers about them.

Many of Oregon OSHA's construction rules require competent persons to evaluate hazardous conditions and mechanical systems, inspect equipment, and train others to work safely. The safety monitor's responsibilities for roofing work include:

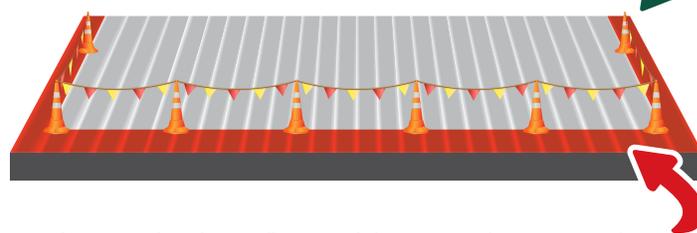
- Recognizing fall hazards
- Warning roofers when they are unaware of hazards or are not working safely
- Staying on the same walking/working surface as the roofers to watch them and to communicate with them while they are working
- Avoiding any other work or distracting activity while watching the roofers

Only employees who are doing roofing work are permitted in the area controlled by the safety monitor. Mechanical equipment must not be used or stored in the area while the work is underway.

Roof slopes are limited to 2:12; warning lines are required for roofs greater than 50 feet wide.

Safety-monitoring systems for roofing work can be used only to protect employees who do roofing work on roofs that have slopes no greater than 2:12.

Safety monitoring on roofs wider than 50 feet is not permitted *unless* a warning-line system is also installed to keep employees from coming too close to an unprotected roof edge. (See [Appendix A](#) for guidelines on determining roof widths.)



Employees who do roofing work **between the warning line and the roof edge** must be protected by at least one of the following systems:

- Safety-monitoring system
- Personal fall-restraint system
- Safety net system
- Fall arrest system
- Guardrail system

When a safety monitoring system is used, the safety monitor must be able to see and communicate with all employees who are working between the warning line and the roof edge.



Source: Pfeifer Roofing Inc. / OR-OSHA Public Education

Training is required

Training is required for all workers exposed to fall hazards. Employees must be trained by a competent person before they begin tasks that could expose them to fall hazards or before they use fall-protection systems. They must be retrained when they don't recognize fall hazards, when they don't follow safe practices for using fall-protection systems, and when changes in the workplace or in the fall-protection systems make their previous training incomplete. Keep a record of each employee's fall protection training. Include the employee's name, the training date, and the trainer's name.

For more information

- **Safety-monitoring systems:**
See [437-003-2502 Safety-monitoring systems](#).
- **Guidelines for determining roof widths:**
See Appendix A, [Determining Roof Widths: Non-mandatory guidelines for complying with 437-003-2502\(2\)](#).
- **Employee training:**
See [437-003-0503, Training requirements](#).

The Technical Section of Oregon OSHA produced this fact sheet to highlight health and safety programs and rules. The information is intended to supplement the rules and provide best practices to employers.