Fall Prevention: Roof Safety

What this Toolbox Talk Covers:
✓ The “Dos” and “Don'ts” of working safely on roofs on a construction site.

Discussion Leader Duties:
✓ Demonstrate examples of safety guidelines and general rules for roof safety and fall prevention.

Discussion Notes:
✓ Discuss the outcomes of the “Dos” and “Don'ts.”

Do
- Provide and use fall prevention measures when working on steep roofs, open-sided floors, landings or scaffold platforms.
- Guard or secure covers over holes with materials of sufficient strength.
- Write “Hole” over any secure covers to alert workers of the hazard.
- Regularly inspect all fall protection equipment to ensure it is in good working condition.
- Ensure the full body harness for a Personal Fall Arrest System (PFAS) fits properly.
- Anchorage points for a PFAS should be capable of supporting 5,000 pounds per attached worker.

Don't
- Begin work on a roof without inspecting the underside for signs of damage or decay.
- Overload a roof with materials and equipment.
- Neglect to properly guard skylights and other existing roof openings.
- Work on a roof where the distance to the ground is more than six feet without fall protection.
- Use an unstable anchorage point for a PFAS.

Discussion questions:
1. When should you use fall prevention measures?
2. How should you guard or secure existing holes or openings on a roof?
3. What should you do before beginning work on a roof?
4. What are some of the guidelines for an anchorage point for a PFAS?

Meeting notes:
Employee comments/concerns:

Other safety issues to be addressed on the job/facility:

Training record:

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Employee Quiz is provided on last page. Answers are: 1. (b), 2. (a), 3. (d), 4. (c), 5. (d)
Fall Protection: Roof Safety

Hazards include:
Serious injury or even death.

Smart Safety Rules

• When using a Personal Fall Arrest System (PFAS), these items should be provided:
  o A full body harness
  o A lanyard and/or lifeline
  o An anchorage point independent of supporting any other platforms that is capable of supporting 5,000 pounds per attached worker

• Safety monitor systems can be used in conjunction with other safety measures to prevent falls. Guidelines for a safety monitor are as follows:
  o They should be a competent person with no other duties that could interfere with their responsibility.
  o They are required to work on the same level as the work being performed.
  o They should be close enough to workers for direct visual monitoring and verbal communication.
Employee Name: ________________________________

Circle the correct answer below.

1. It is OK for workers to share an anchorage point, as long as it can support at least 5,000 pounds.
   a. True
   b. False

2. Using a safety monitor alone is not sufficient protection for preventing falls from roofs.
   a. True
   b. False

3. What items should be part of a PFAS?
   a. A lanyard and/or lifeline
   b. An anchorage point that can support at least 5,000 pounds per attached worker
   c. A full body harness
   d. All of the above

4. Before beginning work on a roof, you should check the underside for ________.
   a. Light fixtures
   b. Skylights
   c. Signs of damage or decay
   d. Wasp nests

5. A safety monitor should be:
   a. A competent person with no other duties that could interfere with their responsibility
   b. On the same level as the work being performed
   c. Close enough to workers for direct visual monitoring and verbal communication
   d. All of the above

Training record: Date: __________________________ Jobsite/Facility: __________________________
Trainer: __________________________ Title: __________________________