



SERVICE WORKS
YOUR FULL SERVICE ROOFING CONTRACTOR

“UP ON TOP” NEWS

SEPTEMBER 2007

ROOFTOP SAFETY

As a building owner or manager, safety should be an important consideration when selecting a roofing contractor. An unsafe contractor can create a tremendous liability for its employees and for the clients that they work for.

Roof construction, repairs, and other maintenance operations often require manual labor at dangerous heights and on steeply pitched working surfaces. The possibility of lost footing, decreased stability, and objects falling from such a height is great. Appropriate safeguards should be in place. The following are minimum safety guidelines that contractors should follow to promote a safe and healthy workplace and guard against injury to others below the work area.

Training

Proper safety training should be provided to all new company hires and

should be reinforced on a daily basis with tool box talks and constant reminders. Further, key employees should be designated as safety representatives to monitor daily activity, recommend improvements, and insure compliance with company policies.

Safety Belts, Lifelines, and Lanyards

1. Employees working on a roof more than 20 feet from the ground without a parapet, or 16 feet from the ground to an eave of a roof with a slope of more 4/12 without a parapet, should be secured by an approved safety belt attached to a lifeline.
2. The safety belt lanyard should be a minimum of 1/2" nylon with a maximum length to provide for a fall of no greater than 6 feet. The rope should have a nominal breaking strength of 5,400 pounds.
3. Lifelines, safety belts, and lanyards shall be used for employee's safeguarding. Ropes used for hoisting lines and other purposes shall not be used as lifelines. Any lifeline, safety belt, or lanyard actually subjected to in-service loading should be immediately removed from employee safeguarding.

Work Site Isolation

Prior to the start of any roof construction, repair, or maintenance, the foreman, safety manager, or person in charge of the project should insure that the area below the work site is isolated against any entry by the use of barrier tape or other means.

Personal Protective Equipment

Employees involved in roof construction, repair, or maintenance operations should use appropriate personal protective equipment including, but not limited to, hard hats, eye protection, and heavy duty work gloves.

Ladder Safety Tips

1. Ladders are rated by how much weight they can safely bear. Ladders should be rated 1A or up to 300 pounds.
2. When it comes to safety, fiberglass is the safest material although aluminum ladders are more common because of their ease of handling.
3. Ladders should not be used in the vicinity of power lines or other electrical hazards.
4. Ladders should extend 3' to 3 1/2' above the edge of a roof and sit on a firm and level base.
5. The base of the ladder should be set 1/4 the height of the wall, away from the wall for the proper angle.
6. The base of the ladder should be tied off along with the top of the ladder.

So the next time you are considering a proposal from a roofing contractor be aware of safety. Does the contractor have a record of safety? Do they have a Safety Policy? Are they OSHA compliant? Safe practices is something that should be weighed as much as pricing when selecting a contractor.

Service Works

5423 N. 59th Street
Tampa, FL 33610
Phone 813-626-7717
Fax 813-626-7248

3331 NW 55th Street
Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33309
Phone 954-777-0203
Fax 954-777-0283

www.serviceworksroofing.com