



# Top 10 Rooftop Hazards



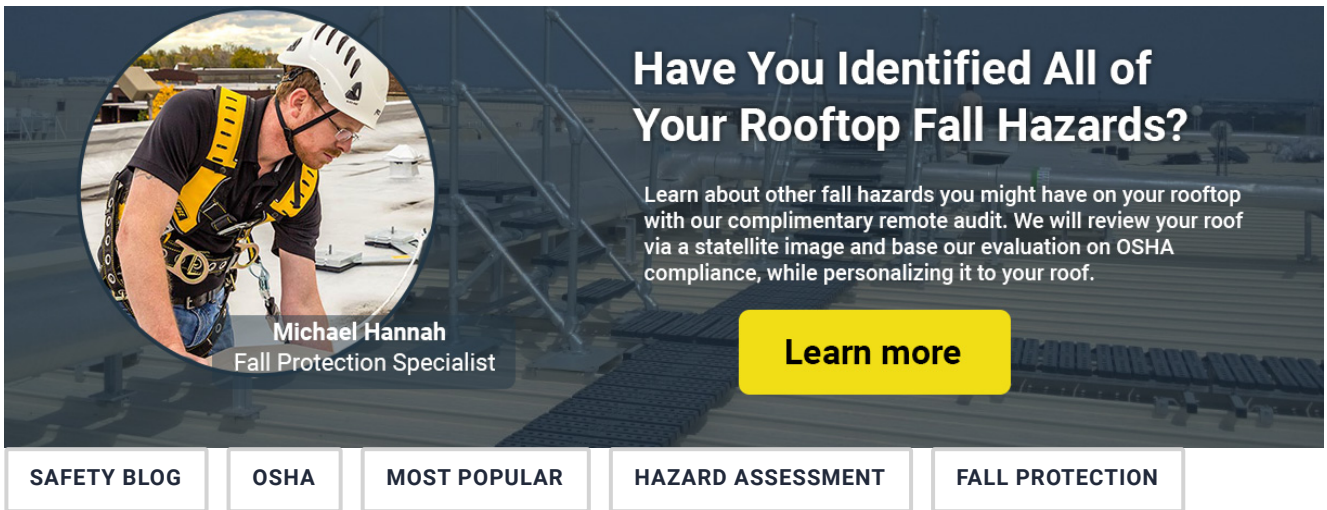
Every time you or your team access a rooftop you should take every precaution and avoid hazards and dangerous situations. But sometimes we all need a reminder about what specifically to look out for, so we've compiled this list of the top 10 hazards you should be aware of before you access a rooftop.

1. **Roof Stability** - Is the roof strong enough to support the weight of a human? Are the trusses intact? Will the roof bow on a hot day? Check the underlayment before going onto the roof.

2. **Ladder Security & Placement** - Is the ladder secure and at a 4:1 angle? Are the feet secure? Is the top above the roofline and tied securely? A number of fatalities occur each year because of a poorly placed ladder. Always inspect your ladder and the area around your ladder prior to use.
3. **Weather Conditions** - Ice, snow, and wind are always a hazard on a roof if the shingles or other surfaces are slippery. Membrane roofs are especially slippery in wet conditions and should be avoided under these circumstances.
4. **Roof Holes** - Unguarded skylights and poorly covered holes. Without fall protection, an open hole on a roof can be just as deadly as the roof edge, and according to [OSHA 1910.28](#) requires a skylight screen or railing on all exposed sides.
5. **Edge Awareness** - Losing the edge of the roof can be a problem when you are engaged in roof work. Some employees get so wrapped up in their project that they forget where the roof edge is.
6. **Improper Training** - If there is someone on the roof who has not been properly trained, they are a rooftop safety hazard and could cause serious injury to themselves or others.
7. **Improper Use of Fall Protection Equipment** - Such as poorly anchored railing, lanyard too long, or a weak tie-off point. Understanding and training on how to properly use fall protection equipment are critical.
8. **Poor Line of Sight** - Ridge vents, chimneys, shingle bundles may block egress on a roof. Maintain a good line of sight so that you know where you are in relation to the roof's edge.
9. **Pitch** - The steeper the roof is, the risk of falling increases. Ensure that the fall protection and shingle bundles are secure before setting foot on the roof.
10. **Split Level Roofs & Fall Heights** - Employees engaged in roofing activities on low-slope and split-level roofs with unprotected sides

and edges 6 feet (1.8 meters) or more above lower levels should have the proper fall protection equipment.

Regardless of the situation, fall protection should always be used when accessing a roof and a working knowledge of personal protective equipment (PPE) will save lives. The top ten list was comprised of fatalities in the workplace with detailed reports on the [OSHA website](#).



**Have You Identified All of Your Rooftop Fall Hazards?**

Learn about other fall hazards you might have on your rooftop with our complimentary remote audit. We will review your roof via a satellite image and base our evaluation on OSHA compliance, while personalizing it to your roof.

**Learn more**

**Michael Hannah**  
Fall Protection Specialist

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## 10 Fall Protection Tips

by *John Braun*

As we venture into a new year, it's a good time to take stock of where we are and where we're headed. It's no secret that falls have been the leading killer in construction for more years than we care to remember and that fall protection (training or otherwise) has led OSHA's Top Ten list of...

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