Flat Roofing Safety Stats and Facts

FACTS

Dangers when working on a flat commercial roof:

- 1. Falls from ladders or off of the roof edge are the most common hazards. Weakened spots of the roof material itself and openings on the roof are also known dangers.
- 2. Skylights, weak metal plates, painted lights and windows are all hazards that are hard to see. Any of these can become a hazard if stepped on or into.
- 3. Access openings sometimes aren't well-marked. They may just be an open hole in the roof and won't have handrails or guard rails for entry and exit.
- 4. Weakened roof areas are prone to collapse. Some roofs are incapable of sustaining the weight of a person or equipment. Other examples are a spot waiting for repair or damaged places where objects have fallen.
- 5. Heat exhaustion is a major concern in warmer climates. Being up on the roof in extreme temperatures and direct sunlight is at times life threatening.
- 6. Overhead or dangling electrical wires pose a constant threat. This is especially dangerous when moving ladders around the area.

STATS

- More injuries happen on residential building sites than any other workplace in the construction sector, and of falls experienced by roofers:
 - 20 % were over three metres in height.
 - 40 % were from permanent structures such as roofs.
- Workers in the roofing industry are three times more likely to have a fatal injury than workers in other industries, and

about 50 roofers are killed on the job each year.

- For roofers, about 75% of fatalities are caused by falls.
- Of those fatalities, 54% did not have access to a Personal Fall Arrest System (PFAS), and another 23% had access to one but did not use it.
- Only about one-third of those deaths occurred due to falls from 30 feet or higher.
- Overall, 20% of the occupational deaths studied happened when the worker had less than 2 months of experience on the job.