

Roofing Siding and Sheet Metal Stats and Facts

FACTS

1. **Falls from Height:** Roofing and siding tasks often take place on elevated, sloped, or unstable surfaces. Without fall arrest systems (harnesses, guardrails, or anchors), workers face a high risk of serious or fatal injuries.
2. **Slips, Trips & Falls (Same Level):** Debris, unguarded skylights, tools, and wet or icy surfaces on roofs or scaffolds increase slip and trip hazards—requiring proper footwear and site housekeeping.
3. **Struck-by/Falling Objects:** Roofers and sheet metal workers are frequently exposed to dropped tools, loose materials, and falling equipment. Helmets and toe boards are essential to reduce injury risk.
4. **Electrocution Hazards:** Working with sheet metal near live wires, antennas, or overhead lines can cause electrocution or arc burns—especially without insulated tools or awareness of line clearance.
5. **Lacerations & Puncture Injuries:** Sharp edges on sheet metal, flashing, and fasteners can cause deep cuts or puncture wounds—cut-resistant gloves and long sleeves help prevent injury.
6. **Heat Stress & UV Exposure:** Roofers often work in direct sunlight for extended periods, leading to heat exhaustion, dehydration, and burns if PPE like sun-shielding hats and breathable clothing is not used.
7. **Musculoskeletal Strain:** Repetitive lifting, bending, and carrying of heavy or awkward materials (e.g., rolls of membrane, panels) without ergonomic controls can cause chronic strain or injury.

STATS

- BLS 2023 data recorded 174,100 non-fatal injuries in construction, with roofing and siding workers facing risks of cuts (25%), eye injuries (10%), and sprains from falls (30%). Inadequate PPE contributed to 20% of incidents, particularly lack of safety glasses or gloves.
- In 2024, Fall Protection (29 CFR 1926.501) was the most cited OSHA violation in construction, with 5,423 citations, followed by PPE violations (29 CFR 1910.132) at 1,876, often due to missing hard hats or improper eye protection during roofing tasks.
- A 2022 NIOSH report found that 35% of roofing workers lacked proper fall protection training, increasing fall risks. Non-compliance with PPE, like missing hard hats, contributed to 15% of head injuries.
- WorkSafeBC reported 25–30 annual construction fatalities in British Columbia (2020–2023), with roofing and siding workers at risk from falls (40%) and struck-by incidents (20%). Hard hats and fall protection systems are critical.
- Statistics Canada's 2021 Workplace Safety Survey recorded 5,000 lost-time claims in construction, with 18% linked to inadequate PPE in roofing and siding tasks, such as cuts from sheet metal or eye injuries from debris.
- CCOHS 2023 data showed that workplaces enforcing PPE use (e.g., hard hats, safety glasses) reduced roofing-related injuries by 22%, particularly during sheet metal cutting or shingle installation.