

Toolbox No.4	Issue No. 1	Date: May 2023
	<b>TOOL BOX TALK</b>	
	<b><u>Working at Height</u></b>	

**Scope:**

Falling from height is one of the biggest causes of fatalities within the workplace. Many of these deaths and injuries are as a result of falling less than 2 meters and could have been avoided if correct Health and Safety measures were put in place and followed.



**Things to Consider:**

If roof work is involved, identify any fragile areas and/or openings and implement suitable protective precautions

Access ladders must be secured and extend sufficiently beyond working platforms to allow for safe access/egress

Where access ladders run for more than 9m, suitable intermediate platforms must be provided

Consider weather conditions – rain, wind and ice can have serious impacts on safety when working at height

Ensure operatives are suitably trained and physically capable for the task being undertaken

If guard-rails, fragile surface covers, void protections etc are removed for any reason, they must be replaced as soon as possible and, in the interim, the void/danger zone should be physically guarded

Use crawling boards/roof ladders where applicable

Plan work at height to include safe access/egress, edge protection, PPE and suitable training

Where is it impractical to fit guard-rails, intermediate guard-rails and toe-boards then personal suspension equipment/fall arrest equipment must be utilised

**Takeaway Point:**

To significantly reduce the risks of working at height, all parties involved should ensure that the correct equipment is used, the correct person completes the task (this includes ensuring that relevant training has been completed), make considerations for the environment including weather and that correct planning takes place.

**Applicable Legislation:**

[Working at height: A brief guide \(hse.gov.uk\)](https://www.hse.gov.uk/working-at-height/)



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