



Facilities Management

Worker Safety for Roof Snow Management

Risks for Workers Inspecting Roofs During or After Snow Storms or Clearing Snow:

Falls cause most of the deaths and injuries that occur during snow removal operations!

Hazards:

- Falling:
 - From ladders
 - From aerial lifts due to collapses or tip overs
 - Through an unprotected skylight or elevator shaft opening on roof obscured by snow
 - Falling or sliding off an unprotected or unmarked edge off the side of the building
- Striking or tripping over hidden roof penetrations (e.g., vents)
- Exposure to extreme weather conditions (e.g., cold, high winds, icy surfaces) on the roof, which can lead to hypothermia or frostbite. Note that the “wind chill” factor can significantly increase the risk of frostbite.
- Injuries from falling snow and ice, including entrapment and suffocation



Regulatory Requirements – OSHA Standard (1910.23):

Employers are required to evaluate hazards and protect workers from falls when working at heights of 4 feet or more above a lower level.

OSHA considers snow removal a maintenance activity (see also general industry fall protection compliance guidance, Directive STD 01-01-013, for work from elevated surfaces).

For complete details on the steps to protect your facilities, please refer to the linked [Technical Guidance Document](#). In addition, some of these practices may be eligible for MIIA Rewards credit, and the tools may be eligible for a MIIA Risk Management or Flex Grant. Please discuss with your Risk Manager for further details.

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