

UMBC ESH - Fall Protection Requirements for Rooftops and Elevated Working Surfaces*

Distance from Unprotected Leading Edge	Lengthy or Routine Work	Infrequent & Temporary Work
Less than 6 ft	Guardrail, Fall Restraint System or Personal Fall Arrest	
6 ft to <15 ft	Guardrail, Fall Restraint System or Personal Fall Arrest	Warning Line - competent person must be present
15 feet or greater	Warning Line - competent person must be present	No Fall Protection Required

*Low slope roof only (Up to 4:12)

An **Unprotected Leading Edge** refers to an edge of a rooftop or other elevated surface that is 4 feet or greater above a lower surface and is not permanently protected by a passive fall protection system such as a guardrail or parapet.

A **Competent Person** must be at the work site to plan, inspect, and monitor all work on rooftops or elevated surfaces when personal/active fall protection systems or warning lines will be used.

A **Pitched Roof (slope greater than 4:12)** requires an appropriate form of fall protection in all circumstances.

Definition of 'Infrequent and Temporary' based on OSHA interpretation

- Work typically takes less than 2 hours to complete, or less time than it would take to set up a fall protection system.
- Work is performed on an as-needed basis, such as an equipment breakdown or emergency repair, or scheduled work that takes place at a frequency of monthly or greater.

Fall Protection is generally not required for activities such as:

- Traveling from one area of a building to another via the rooftop or to a work area that is sufficiently protected, such as an area that is protected by guardrails, or an indoor penthouse or mechanical space.
- Escorting contractors to rooftops or to other areas of the building via rooftops.
- Performing rooftop inspections for the purpose of assessing rooftop or equipment conditions.
 - 2 people must be present, and no work activity is permitted.
- Work performed from the working edges of loading docks and entertainment stages.

For more information visit <https://safety.umbc.edu/fall-protection-and-working-from-heights/>.

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