
Fall protection plan: information sheet for residential roofing

OHS information for employers, prime contractors, and workers

This information sheet provides an overview of fall protection planning for Alberta employers, prime contractors and workers working in residential roofing.

KEY INFORMATION

- A fall protection plan must include:
 - The potential fall hazards at the work site.
 - The fall protection system being used.
 - The anchors to be used during the work.
 - Confirmation that clearance distances below the work area, if applicable, have been confirmed as sufficient to protect workers.
 - The procedures used to assemble, maintain, inspect, use, and disassemble the fall protection system, where applicable.
 - Rescue procedures for workers who become suspended after a fall.

Alberta OHS legislation

Section 140 of Alberta's Occupational Health and Safety Code (OHS Code) requires employers to prepare a fall protection plan when work-at-height situations meet both of the following criteria:

- A worker may fall three metres or more.
- The worker is not protected by guardrails.

Fall hazards at the work site

The employer must conduct a hazard assessment and list the circumstances that could lead to a worker falling. Examples include a leading edge, an unguarded opening, or a boom-supported work platform. Consider:

- Areas where fall hazards can change, such as when working at gable ends, or sub-levels that are below the level being worked on.
- Objects or machinery that workers can fall onto.

Elimination of a hazard is the best way of controlling the hazard. An example of how to eliminate fall hazards is building a roof on the ground and lifting it into place.

If a hazard cannot be eliminated, it must be controlled. For more information, see [Hazard Assessment and Control: a handbook for Alberta employers and workers](#).

Clearance

Clearance distances below the work area must be enough to prevent a worker from striking the ground or an object or level below the work area upon full deployment of a fall arrest system.

- Clearance distances are based on the type of fall protection equipment used and the anchor location.
- Safety ropes must not have excess length above the rope grab.

The fall protection plan template at the end of this bulletin shows how to calculate the clearance distance for the most commonly used system with a fixed length lanyard.

If the required clearance cannot be achieved, the employer must find another way to do the work that addresses the fall hazard.

Availability and review by workers

The employer must ensure that the fall protection plan is available at the work site and is reviewed with workers before work with a risk of falling begins, as well as when conditions affecting fall protection change.

Contact us

OHS Contact Centre

Anywhere in Alberta

- 1-866-415-8690

Edmonton and surrounding area

- 780-415-8690

Deaf or hard of hearing (TTY)

- 1-800-232-7215 (Alberta)
- 780-427-9999 (Edmonton)

Notify OHS of health and safety concerns

alberta.ca/file-complaint-online.aspx

Call the OHS Contact Centre if you have concerns that involve immediate danger to a person on a work site.

Report a workplace incident to OHS

alberta.ca/ohs-complaints-incidents.aspx

Website

alberta.ca/ohs

Get copies of the OHS Act, Regulation and Code

Alberta King's Printer

alberta.ca/alberta-kings-printer.aspx

OHS

alberta.ca/ohs-act-regulation-code.aspx

For more information

Hazard Assessment and Control: a handbook for Alberta employers and workers (BP018)

ohs-pubstore.labour.alberta.ca/bp018

Occupational health and safety fall protection plan (GS010)

ohs-pubstore.labour.alberta.ca/gs010

Prime contractor roles and duties (LI018)

ohs-pubstore.labour.alberta.ca/li018

Role and duties of Alberta OHS officers (LI046)

ohs-pubstore.labour.alberta.ca/li046

© 2023 Government of Alberta

This material is for information only. The information provided in this material is solely for the user's information and convenience and, while thought to be accurate and functional, it is provided without warranty of any kind. Neither the Crown, nor its agents, employees, or contractors will be liable to you for any damages, direct or indirect, arising out of your use of the information contained in this material. If in doubt with respect to any information contained within this material, or for confirmation of legal requirements, please refer to the current edition of the *Occupational Health and Safety Act*, Regulation, and Code, or other applicable legislation. Further, if there is any inconsistency or conflict between any of the information contained in this material and the applicable legislative requirement, the legislative requirement shall prevail. This material is current to February 2023. The law is constantly changing with new legislation, amendments to existing legislation, and decisions from the courts. It is important that you keep yourself informed of the current law. This material, including copyright and marks under the *Trademarks Act* (Canada), is owned by the Government of Alberta and protected by law. This publication is issued under the Open Government Licence – Alberta. For details on the terms of this licence and commercial or non-commercial use of any materials in this publication, visit open.alberta.ca/licence. Note that the terms of this licence do not apply to any licensed third-party materials that may be included in this publication.

Fall protection plan – information sheet for residential roofing

©2023 Government of Alberta | Updated February 2023 | GS010-1

Classification: Public



Fall protection plan template

This is one example of a fall protection plan template. If you choose to use this template, make sure you customize it to your work and work site.

Name of employer: _____

Work site (i.e. civic address): _____

Period for which this plan is valid: _____

Fall hazards at the work site

Identify the specific work area and circumstances where a worker could fall (e.g. “leading edge of second floor work area”, “unguarded opening on third floor”, etc.)

Fall protection system(s) to be used at the work site

Brief description of the system(s) being used (fall arrest, travel restraint, fall restrict, horizontal lifeline, safety net, work positioning, control zone, etc.)

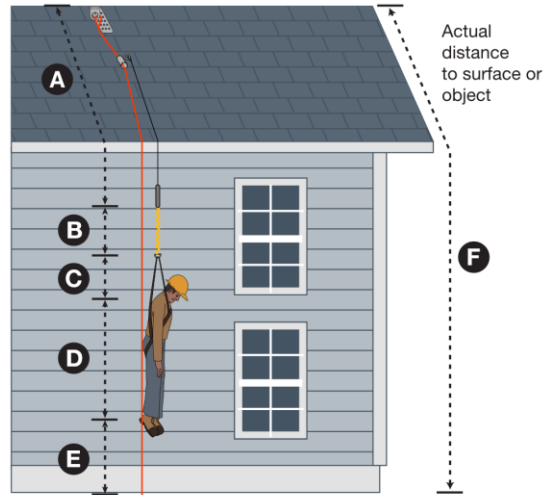
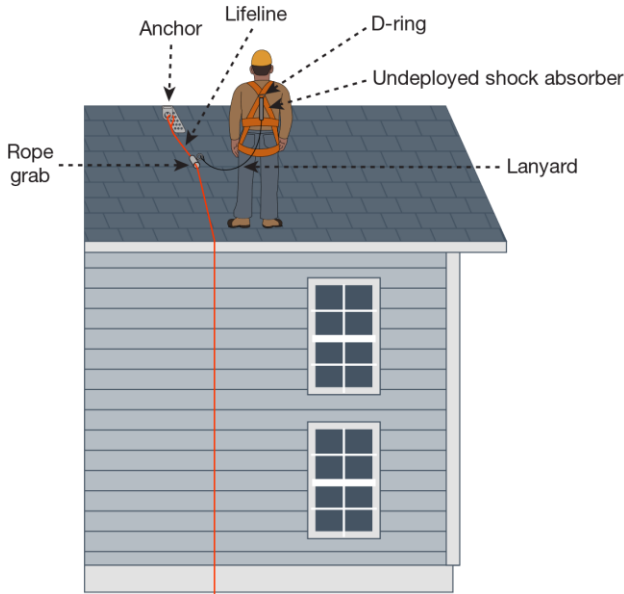
Anchor(s) to be used

Locations of permanent and improvised (if used) anchors, any special requirements such as connecting hardware, type, thickness, and condition of material to which the anchor is connected to ensure minimum required strength, etc. The employer should ensure the site has adequate anchor points to minimize the possibility of a worker experiencing a swing fall.



Clearance requirement

This must be calculated (you can use the worksheet below for convenience). The distance the worker falls must be less than the distance to the ground or an object or level below the work area (such as a balcony, mezzanine, or HVAC ducting).



CALCULATE REQUIRED CLEARANCE

A Distance from anchor to rope grab, plus length of lanyard: _____

B Length of shock absorber extended – typically 1.1m (3.6') or 1.75m (5.7'), depending on the absorber: _____

C D-ring slippage and harness stretch – 0.3m (1') minimum: _____

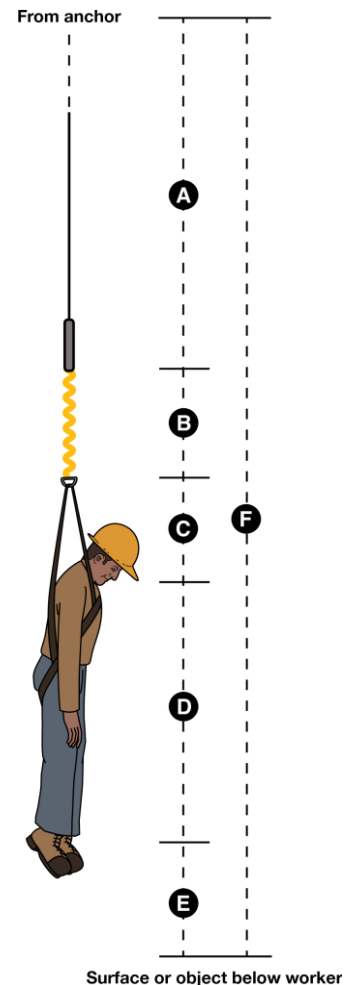
D Height of worker's D-ring from foot level – typically 1.5m (5'), but can be longer for taller workers: _____

E Safety factor – minimum 0.6m (2'): _____

F SUM OF A + B + C + D + E

(Clearance required – i.e. minimum distance from anchor point to nearest surface or object below worker): _____

NOTE: The actual distance to the surface or object below must be greater than the clearance required. If not, a falling worker will strike that lower surface or object. A different anchor location or type of fall protection system may be required.



Procedures to assemble, maintain, inspect, use and disassemble the fall protection system

Procedures for simple systems can be listed here. For complex systems, it is acceptable to reference procedures that appear elsewhere as a separate document. The procedures must be readily available for reference at the work site. This can mean a paper copy of the instructions on site or an electronic copy that is downloaded to a tablet, laptop, or smartphone. The information must be retrievable without an internet connection so that the person needing it has access to it at all times.

Rescue procedures

List the rescue procedures that are in place to quickly return a worker to safety if the worker is left suspended as a result of a fall.

Worker sign-off

The employer must ensure all workers affected by this fall protection plan have reviewed it. As an example of a way to fulfil that requirement, this template asks workers to sign off on the plan. However, employers are free to determine the best way to fulfil this requirement at their particular work site.

Worker Name: _____ Signature: _____

Worker Name: _____ Signature: _____

Worker Name: _____ Signature: _____

Worker Name: _____ Signature: _____

This template is for example purposes only. Completing this template alone will not necessarily put you in compliance with legislation. It is important and necessary that you customize this document to meet the unique circumstances of your work site. Further, it is essential that this document is not only completed, but is used, communicated, and implemented in accordance with the legislation. Neither the Crown, nor its agents, employees, or contractors, will be liable to you for any damages, direct or indirect, arising out of your use of this template.

