

SHORT DURATION WORK AT HEIGHT

This fact sheet will help you plan safely for short duration work at height. It is one of six fact sheets in the Working Safely at Height Toolkit to be used together with the Best Practice Guidelines for Working at Height in New Zealand.

WHAT IS SHORT DURATION WORK?

Short duration work is work that can be completed in minutes rather than hours. This includes inspections, replacing a few tiles, or minor adjustment to a television aerial.

ASSESSING AND CONTROLLING HEIGHT HAZARDS FOR SHORT DURATION WORK

Plan a safe approach for short duration work at height.

First assess the hazards of working at height for short duration work. Then decide on the best controls for managing these hazards. There must be a safe system of work in place.

Select the best work method and controls to **eliminate**, **isolate** or **minimise** the risk of the hazard of working at height.

Effort is in proportion to risk – the greater the risk, the greater the controls. Remember, **doing nothing is not an option**.

PLANNING THE WORK AND SELECTING THE RIGHT CONTROLS

Workers doing short duration work on a roof must have a safe way of accessing the roof level and working on the roof.

In most circumstances the minimum requirements are:

- > for short duration work on a sloping roof, a properly constructed and supported roof ladder.
- > for short duration work on a flat roof without edge protection, a harness with a short lanyard attached to secured anchorage.

Answers to the following questions will help you plan short duration work at height and select controls:

- > How long will the work take?
- > How complex is the work?
- > What is the pitch of the roof?
- > What is the condition of the roof?
- > What type of material is the roof made of?
- > What are the weather conditions?
- > Is there a risk to workers while edge protection is being erected?
- > Is there a risk to other workers and the public?

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This fact sheet is part of the *Working Safely at Height Toolkit* that supports the Best Practice Guidelines for Working at Height in New Zealand.

- > Fact Sheet 1: Planning a safe approach to working at height
- > Fact Sheet 2: Selecting the right equipment for working safely at height
- > Fact Sheet 3: Short duration work at height
- > Fact Sheet 4: Edge protection

- > Fact Sheet 5: Temporary work platforms
- > Fact Sheet 6: Total restraint system

For additional guidance on safe working at height see:

- > Be Safe Working on Roofs
- > Safe Working with Ladders and Stepladders
- > Health and Safety In Contracting Situations