

Enter contractor's logo and name here	Company Identification Enter document no. from owner here	Contractor Identification Enter document no. from contractor here	Revision Index		Sheet of Sheets 20 / 9
			Validity Status	Rev. N.	
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Talk No: 13	Title: ROOF WORK
Introduction: Roof work is inherently hazardous and results in a significant number of serious accidents every year. Don't become a statistic.	
Main points: ▪ Is it necessary to actually go on the roof? Are there alternatives such as tower scaffolds, mobile elevated work platforms (MEWPs), etc? ▪ A risk assessment should be carried out for every roof to be worked on ▪ Only suitably trained operatives should be permitted to work on roofs. Discussion points: ▪ A safe method of work must be agreed prior to any roof work commencing. ▪ Consider methods of access/egress – these must be safe. ▪ Suitable and sufficient edge protection must be provided to prevent falls of both persons and materials (scaffolding, guard-rails, etc) – physical protection! ▪ Hazard tape, rope etc, can only be used where employees are not going to go within 2m of a leading edge, opening, etc. ▪ Identify all openings and securely guard or cover them. ▪ Suitable crawling boards and roof ladders must be provided for sloping and/or fragile roofs (unless suitable battening is to be used). ▪ Where crawling boards are to be used for access/egress or used near leading edges/openings then guard-rails, intermediate guard-rails and toe-boards must be fitted. ▪ Where it is impractical to provide edge protection then safety harnesses must be worn and suitable anchor points utilized. ▪ Always consider the weather – wet, windy and/or icy conditions can seriously impact on roof work. ▪ Consider how you are going to get stores up (hoists, etc) and waste down (rubbish chutes, etc). ▪ Consider recovery procedures in the event of an accident, i.e. a person hanging from a safety line, getting a casualty down from the roof etc . PREVENTING AN ACCIDENT IS ALWAYS POSSIBLE – REPAIRING A BROKEN BODY ISN'T!	
Notes:	