

The Ontario Recreation Facilities Association Inc. (ORFA) regularly researches and writes about issues that could affect our members. These documents provide an opinion on key risk management issues but are not meant to provide any form of legal opinion or official interpretation. No one should act on such information without appropriate professional advice after a thorough examination of the particular situation. All rights reserved.
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Falls continue to be a major cause of critical injuries and death in Ontario workplaces. The vast majority of fall fatalities are falls from heights. But you don't even have to be high off the ground. Whether you are working three metres or 50 metres high, falls can kill. Use appropriate work platforms, ensure guardrails are in place, and tie off your personal fall protection system each and every time.
Source: Infrastructure Health & Safety Association



Introduction

The ORFA wishes to remind members that regular facility roof inspections are an important part of building maintenance and life cycle planning. Some equipment such as roof mounted heating, ventilation, air-conditioning (HVAC) equipment will require regular maintenance and repair and is normally located on a facility roof-top. Getting staff and/or contractors safely up and down from these areas requires careful planning and training. Working at height equipment further requires careful consideration when purchasing. The days of having an extension ladder lying in the back of the facility for all staff and the general public to access as required are over. Controlling working at height equipment to limit use is an important supervisory responsibility. Breaches can have significant repercussions. Refer to:
<http://news.ontario.ca/mol/en/2013/11/supervisor-jailed-roofing-company-fined-50000-after-worker-dies.html>

Ministry of Labour (MOL) Sets Working at Heights Training Program Standard

The Working at Heights Training Program Standard sets a common baseline of learning outcomes for workers who work at heights. The goal is for these workers to achieve basic knowledge and skills for working safely at heights. Refer to:
<http://www.labour.gov.on.ca/english/hs/faqs/wah.php>

The standard requires that all training programs contain information on the following learning outcomes:

- ✓ Working at Heights Basic Theory Module
- ✓ Rights and Responsibilities
- ✓ Identification of the Hazards of Working at Heights
- ✓ Eliminating or Controlling the Hazards of Working at Heights
- ✓ Warning Methods and Physical Barriers
- ✓ Ladders and Similar Equipment
- ✓ Personal Fall Protection Equipment
- ✓ Barriers and Safety Nets
- ✓ Personal Fall Protection Equipment
- ✓ Anchor Points
- ✓ Work Positioning Systems, Work Access Equipment, and Platforms
- ✓ Rescue Planning



MOL Updated Hazard Alert: Fixed Rail Ladder (FRL) Fall Protection System

A fixed ladder is a vertical ladder mounted permanently to a structure. These ladders are primarily used to access roofs or other structures for industrial purposes. Fixed ladders are deemed to be much safer than traditional extension ladders, however, they do have a risk of injury level if workers are improperly trained. A recent accident has caused the MOL to update and release the Class FRL Fall Protection System, Alert #26/0510 published in 2010. Refer to:

<http://www.labour.gov.on.ca/english/hs/pubs/alerts/a26.php>

Facility Window Cleaning and Repair

Many new facilities have a vast amount of glass. From an architectural standpoint they make a facility warm and inviting and often help to reduce energy consumption as lighting requirements are reduced. However, from an operational viewpoint glass maintenance represents a significant investment of human resources to maintain. Being able to safely conduct repairs and cleaning must be carefully considered prior to attempting these tasks. It is important to note that glass cleaning has specific legislation that must be considered - R.R.O. 1990 Regulation 859 Window Cleaning. Refer to:

http://www.e-laws.gov.on.ca/html/regs/english/elaws_regs_900859_e.htm

Contractor Access to Roof Tops

Hiring professionals to conduct roof top work will help owners ensure that proper maintenance and repairs are being conducted according to provincial legislation. However, members are reminded that under the Occupational Health and Safety Act (OHSA) that there is a joint responsibility between owners, facility supervisory staff and contractors to create safe work plans. The OHSA applies to almost every worker, supervisor, employer and workplace in Ontario, including workplace owners, constructors and suppliers of equipment or materials to workplaces covered by the Act. It is important to ensure that all contracted workers have received "working at heights training" prior to being allowed to perform any work at height. Refer to:

http://www.e-laws.gov.on.ca/html/regs/english/elaws_regs_900851_e.htm

New Worker Training

Safely working at heights should be part of all new worker training programs. Developing an education session that provides an overview of the risks associated with working at height, while clearly identifying that unless adequately trained no attempt to work at height should be made, and is a recommended minimum expectation.

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