

Top 10 root causes of falls when working in residential roofing

Rough framing and carpentry trades

Falls when working at heights are a significant concern in the residential roofing sector the Infrastructure Health and Safety Association (IHSA) serves, where they cause a notable number of lost-time injuries. IHSA, with support from the Ministry of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development (MLITSD), organized an initiative where a group of industry subject matter experts came together to examine the common causes of falls when working at heights. Together, they identified the following top 10 root causes for the rough framing and carpentry trades in the residential roofing sector.

Priority	Category		Primary root cause
1	Process, people		Task, trade specific work procedures not being followed
2	Process, culture, tools & machines		Training
3	Environment, culture, people		Enforcement and government oversight, (Enforcement, regulation)
4	People, process		Safety culture
5	Tools & machines, people		Equipment
6	Process, people, culture		Procedure / techniques
7	Process, people, culture		Old practices / lack of innovation
8	People		Fit for duty / mental health
9	Process, culture, tools		Personal protective equipment (PPE) Project cost
10	Environment		Site conditions

Note: Some of the ranked numbers have multiple causes listed, as they resulted in a tie during the formal voting process. Visit [Working at Heights \(Falls\): Residential Roofing](https://www.ihsa.ca/working-at-heights-falls-residential-roofing) at IHSA.ca to learn more and access tools and resources that assist workplaces with falls when working in residential roofing.