











Top 10 root causes of falls when working in residential roofing

Home building trades

Falls from working at heights are a major safety concern in the residential roofing sector served by the Infrastructure Health and Safety Association (IHSA), contributing to a significant number of lost-time injuries and fatalities. To address this issue, IHSA, supported by the Ministry of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development (MLITSD), convened a group of industry subject matter experts to investigate the common causes. Through this collaborative effort, the group identified the top 10 root causes of falls from heights in the sector.

Priority	Category		Primary root cause
1	Tools & machines		Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Ladder Mobile Elevating Work Platforms (MEWP)
2	Culture People		Old practices Age
3	People Culture		Fit for duty Transient workforce Attitude
4	People		Worker non-compliant
5	Environment		Piecework
6	Processes		Training Supervision
7	Environment		Lack of enforcement, oversight Consultation
8	Environment		Weather
9	Processes		Scheduling Material delivery Health and safety management program
10	Environment		Labour trafficking - exploitation of vulnerable individuals

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](https://www.ihsa.ca) to learn more and access tools and resources that assist workplaces with falls when working in residential roofing.