

# Top 10 root causes of falls when working in residential roofing

## Roof shingling-labour participants

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, the labour representatives identified the following top 10 root causes for the roof shingling (labour participants) trades in the residential roofing sector.

Priority	Category		Primary root cause
1	Environment, culture, people		Government (enforcement, policy, regulation, and data)
2	Processes, culture, tools & machines		Inadequate or improper training
3	Culture		Piecework
4	People		Mental health
5	Environment		Housekeeping
6	Processes		Scheduling
7	Tools & machines		Ladders, other equipment
8	Environment		Unskilled trade
9	Environment		Weather
10	Culture, environment, process		Language and literacy

**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.