

Top 10 root causes of falls when working in residential roofing

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

Priority	Category		Primary root cause
1	Processes, culture, tools		No fall protection from start to finish
2	People, culture		Attitude
3	Culture		Underground economy
4	Tools & machines		Improper PPE
5	People, culture		Lack of engagement
6	Environment, culture, people		Inconsistency/lack of enforcement
7	People, culture		Age (young and old workers)
8	People, processes		Roofing-not a skilled trade
9	People		Labour shortage
10	Environment		Piecework Weather

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.