



Safety Bulletin - November 2019

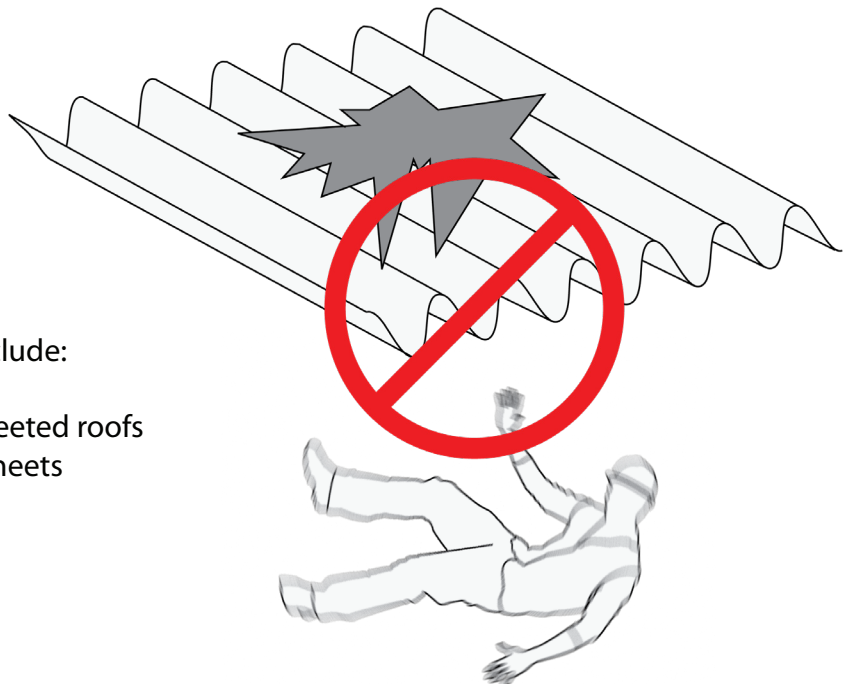
Fragile Roofs - Safe Work Practices

Working on roofs is a high-risk activity as it involves working at height. Roof workers make up nearly a quarter of all workers killed in falls from height. Falls through fragile materials, such as roof lights, asbestos, and cement roofing sheets account for more of these deaths than any other single cause.

Remember: Fragile roof incidents are not inevitable. They can be prevented by careful planning, using trained and experienced workers with suitable equipment and employing a high level of supervision.

Some fragile surface areas may include:

- Old roof lights
- Old liner panels on built-up sheeted roofs
- Non-reinforced fibre cement sheets
- Corroded metal sheets
- Glass (including wired glass)
- Rotted chipboard
- Slates and tiles



As per Industry Regulations, the employer must plan to control all roof work risks:

- The roof work must be properly planned and documented within a risk assessment
- The roof workers must be competent to carry out the work
- No employee is permitted to work on roofs during inclement weather conditions or if any conditions are hazardous to the health and safety of the employee
- All covers to openings and fragile material must be of sufficient strength to withstand any imposed loads
- Suitable and sufficient platforms and coverings must be able to support the weight of any person passing across or working on fragile material
- Install a permanent or temporary life line to arrest a fall

With proper planning and preparation rooftop and fragile surface incidents can be prevented.

For more information, contact info@gravitygh.co.za or visit www.gravitygh.co.za