

SOLUTIONS FOR WORK NEAR FRAGILE SURFACES



STEP 1: IDENTIFY FRAGILE SURFACE HAZARDS

- 1.1. **Fibre-cement sheets** – non-reinforced sheets irrespective of profile type
- 1.2. **Rooflights** – particularly those in the roof plane that can be difficult to see in certain light conditions or when hidden by paint
- 1.3. **Liner panels** – on built-up sheeted roofs
- 1.4. **Metal sheets** – where corroded
- 1.5. **Glass** – including wired glass
- 1.6. **Chipboard** – or similar material where rotted
- 1.7. **Others** – including wood wool slabs, loose plywood boards, slates and tiles



STEP 2: IDENTIFY AND MARK OUT THE RISK ZONES

NOTE: the site may be risk assessed the traditional way, but this may put the risk assessor at risk. Alternatives would be to use a drone or a camera mounted on an extension pole to do the survey before allowing persons access to areas.

2.1. Various fall risk zones:

- 2.1.1. **No Go Zone** – Nobody is allowed to enter this area
- 2.1.2. **Danger Zone** – Only persons with fall protection equipment may enter
- 2.1.3. **Safe Zone** – Free access to all workers, clear safe path to work area
- 2.1.4. **Drop Zone** – Area where items, tools or load may fall



STEP 3: APPLY HIERARCHY OF RISK CONTROL

- 3.1. **Eliminate hazard** – Cover fragile surface or replace with a load bearing surface
- 3.2. **Substitute hazard** - Decide if current access method is safe to use; if not, select alternative access method i.e.
 - 3.2.1. Rope access from above
 - 3.2.2. MEWP from the side
 - 3.2.3. Scaffolding from below
 - 3.2.4. Man-cage and crane
- 3.3. **Engineer the risk away** – Isolate person from hazard, install permanent safe walkways or design remote operated equipment to do task
- 3.4. **Administrative controls** – Develop specific operating procedures for working near fragile surfaces and ensure all employees and supervisors are adequately trained and familiar with the risk controls. Only authorised access allowed. Risk assessment prior to work starts
- 3.5. **Use PPE** – Personal protection equipment
 - 3.5.1. Install permanent horizontal lifelines to act as work restraint
 - 3.5.2. Install permanent horizontal lifelines as fall arrest system
 - 3.5.3. Combination of permanent lifelines, retractable lanyard and or work positioning systems
 - 3.5.4. Install Anchors to use for temporary lifelines
 - 3.5.5. Install anchors to use as fall arrest anchors
 - 3.5.6. Install catch nets

