

SAFETY ALERT

June 29, 2022

Critical Requirements When Working on Roof Areas

Hazards: Fall, Trip, Electrical, Chemical Exposure, Heat/Cold Stress

Working on building roof areas can present a serious fall hazard to personnel. There are other hazards such as trip hazards from uneven walking surfaces and electrical hazards. There is also a concern that the roof area is a remote location and a worker may not be able to obtain immediate assistance in the event of an emergency. **Roof work falls under the LBNL work alone policy and requires a minimum of two people.**

LBNL Fall Protection requirements can be found at: [PUB-3000 Chapter 30 Fall Protection](#)

The following are precautions that ETA personnel should follow when accessing building roof areas:

1. Any research activity must be pre-planned through the use of an approved Work Activity in the Activity Manager system (<https://wpc-am.lbl.gov>). The Work Activity needs to identify hazards and controls, including roof work, as part of the planning process.
2. Contact the building manager and inform them that roof access is needed. Access may be restricted by door locks.
3. Access to roof areas that are not protected by guardrails is strictly prohibited.
4. Always stay within the guardrails when on the roof area. Do not bypass, go around, or go over guardrails at any time. If work requires access outside guardrails, a Personal Fall Protection System (PFPS) (e.g., harness, lanyard, lifeline) is required. This also requires an approved fall protection permit and specific hands-on fall protection training.
5. Do not use ladders near guardrails. Contact the ETA Safety Coordinator if ladders are needed.
6. Always inform an on-site responsible person prior to accessing a roof area. Let them know how long you expect to be in the area. Once you have completed your roof access, let the responsible person know.
7. Always have a means of communication available on the roof in the event of an emergency. Either have a cell phone with you or identify a phone located on the roof area that you can access.
8. Roof work falls under the LBNL work alone policy and requires a minimum of two people.
9. In the event of an emergency such as injury or fire, immediately call 911 for emergency assistance.

If you have any questions about roof access, contact the ETA Safety Coordinator, Ron Scholtz X8137.