

# The Dangers of the Roofing Industry

Roofing jobs can be hazardous due to the nature of the work, lack of protective equipment, improper training, etc. Throughout this blog we will navigate the common injuries, as well as how you should navigate your claim if injured on a roofing job.

## *Common Injuries Associated with Roofing Jobs*

### **Falls**

Roofers are often working at elevated heights which imposes significant risk. Falls from roofs, ladders, or scaffolding can result in serious injuries or even fatalities. Lack of proper safety measures, unstable surfaces, or adverse weather conditions can contribute to falls.

### **Weather Conditions**

Roofers are exposed to various weather conditions, including extreme heat, cold, rain, and wind. They can often be forced to work in these conditions “rain or shine” increasing the risk of accidents and injuries, as slippery surfaces and poor visibility can make the work more dangerous. Also, illnesses may arise such as heat-related illnesses, hypothermia, etc.

## **Material Handling**

Roofing materials, such as shingles, nails, and tar, can pose hazards to workers. They can be very heavy and awkward to navigate with or without the help of another employee. Improper handling techniques can result in many injuries including back strains, muscle sprains, and other musculoskeletal injuries. Sharp objects and hot materials can lead to injuries, including serious punctures and burns to the skin, if not handled properly.

### **Chemical Exposure:**

Roofing materials may contain chemicals, adhesives, and coatings that can be hazardous to health. Prolonged exposure without proper protective measures can lead to respiratory problems, skin irritation, or other health issues.

## **Tool and Equipment Hazards**

The use of power tools, such as nail guns and power saws, pose an extreme risk of cuts, puncture wounds, or more severe injuries if not used properly. Similarly, roofing hatchets and knives are common in roofing work and can also cause wounds that could lead to infection. Lastly, among many others, the fundamental tool of roofing, ladders, are a significant hazard if they are damaged or improperly placed.

## **Structural Instability**

Roofs may be structurally unstable, especially in older buildings or those with pre-existing damage, posing extreme

risk to workers. Collapses or falling debris can result in serious injury but can be avoided if foreseen. Often employers will neglect these issues posing extreme risk to their employees. Roofers need to be aware of potential structural issues that could lead to collapses or accidents and report them promptly.

## **Electricity Risks**

Roofers may encounter electrical wiring and fixtures while working on roofs, especially when working on installations or repairs near electrical systems. Accidental contact with live wires can result in electric shocks or fires if safety precautions are not followed.

## **Lack of Training**

Insufficient training in safety procedures and best practices can contribute to accidents. Proper training should cover safety protocols, proper tool and equipment use, industry best practices, and compliance with relevant regulations. This is essential to ensure that roofers are aware of the risks and know how to mitigate them.

## **Fatigue**

Roofing work can be physically demanding, with extremely long workdays in stressful conditions. Tired workers lead to increased risk of accidents, decreased cognitive function, slower response to hazards, and compromised physical health, among many other side effects. It is crucial to manage work

hours and provide adequate breaks.

### **Inadequate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)**

Failure to use or provide proper PPE, such as safety harnesses, helmets, gloves, and eye protection, increases the risk of injuries. Roofing employees will often lack *enough* harnesses or helmets, leaving select employees at risk of injury or fatality.

### ***Workers' Compensation and the Roofing Industry***

To mitigate these dangers, it's essential for roofing companies to prioritize safety, provide comprehensive training, enforce the use of appropriate safety equipment, and adhere to industry standards and regulations. Workers should also be vigilant, communicate effectively, and be aware of potential hazards on the job site. Regular safety inspections and assessments can help identify and address potential risks before they result in accidents.

An employer is required to cover your medical expenses, lost wages, and certain damages related to loss of use or disfigurement. Unfortunately, instances of roofing companies and their insurance providers rejecting claims arising from on-site accidents are all too common. If you are injured while working on a roofing project, reach out to us immediately following any inquiry related to your roofing job site.

Our legal team will inform you about your entitlements to workers' compensation and ensure accurate calculation of your

benefits. Additionally, we will assess the possibilities of pursuing legal action against third parties for negligence, such as manufacturers of unsafe or defective equipment.

Never assume automatic coverage in the event of a work-related injury. Consult with seasoned attorneys dedicated to advocating for your rights. With offices across the Philly Metro area, Reading, and the Lehigh Valley, we offer a complimentary initial consultation, and our fees are contingent on securing your benefits or a settlement.