

BUILDING SAFETY: DON'T LEAVE ROOFTOP SAFETY TO CHANCE | JUNE 2023

Summer draws us outside of our buildings - not only for leisure or work but also for building maintenance and repairs. While your maintenance staff or outside trades are on site, do you know if they have safe access to your facility?

Before you can even start building maintenance, you must be able to access its various areas. Has your building had a safety audit recently? For many facilities, the way to access roof levels is through wall-mounted ladders. Have they been checked to ensure all bolts and mounts are secure and in good condition? Are the ladder steps durable and slip-resistant? If you're coming through a roof hatch, is there a hatch guard? Often, we find hatches placed at the edge or corner of a building, which can hinder safe access to the roof. A surrounding hatch guard enables safe entry and exit to the roof and protects individuals from falling through the hole when the hatch is left open.

According to Occupational Health and Safety, a skylight is considered a hole. Additionally, ultraviolet light can deteriorate skylights, causing them to become brittle and greatly reduce their ability to avoid breakage from tool drops or worker falls. Custom guards can be quickly installed to prevent individuals from falling through skylights.

The good news is that the products available have come a long way. There are many non-penetrating options available that meet all required standards and eliminate the need and cost for structural engineering designs and approvals yet still provide protection from injuries and falls. Specialized systems, such as fiberglass and reinforced plastic, are corrosion-resistant, rustproof, and lightweight yet extremely durable. They offer a long service life and excellent protection from injuries that slips, trips, and falls may cause.

Pairing strong personal safety practices/implementation together with best-in-class safety solutions ensures an unmatched safety culture. Having proper fall protection (along with training) is the only way to ensure the safety of individuals who access your roof. If you haven't had a safety audit recently, now is the time to schedule one.

Article by [Tremco Roofing and Building Maintenance](#).

Need to book a safety audit? Contact Denise Bachleitner: dbachleitner@tremcoinc.com

