Good morning, team. Today, we're diving into roofing safety, a topic that's not just important, but lifesaving. Roofing is one of the most hazardous jobs in construction, with falls being the leading cause of fatalities. According to OSHA, falls account for about 34% of all construction deaths, and roofing workers are at the highest risk. In 2024 alone, OSHA reported over 100 fall-related incidents in roofing operations nationwide.

Our goal today is to review key OSHA regulations that keep us safe, discuss common hazards, and commit to best practices. Remember, safety isn't a checkbox, it's what gets us home to our families every night. Let's start with the basics: What does OSHA require for fall protection, and why does it matter?

Key Hazards and OSHA Regulations

1. Fall Protection: The Number One Rule (OSHA 29 CFR 1926.501)

Falls from roofs are preventable, but only if we follow the rules. OSHA mandates fall protection for any work 6 feet or more above a lower level, no exception for roofs. This includes edges, skylights, and openings.

- **What OSHA Requires:**
    - **Guardrail Systems:** For flat or low-slope roofs, install guardrails at least 42 inches high with mid-rails and toe boards. They must withstand 200 pounds of force.
    - **Safety Net Systems:** Use nets to catch falls, positioned as close as possible to the work surface (within 2 feet).
    - **Personal Fall Arrest Systems (PFAS):** If guardrails or nets aren't feasible, every worker must wear a full-body harness connected to an anchorage point capable of supporting 5,000 pounds per worker. Lanyards must limit free fall to 6 feet or less.
    - **Warning Lines:** On low-slope roofs (up to 50 feet wide), set up warning lines 6 feet from the edge to alert workers, but combine with other controls for edges closer than that. May need to be 15 feet for other trades in the area, these also need to be 100% closed in.

Think about your last job on that sloped shingle roof, without harnesses tied off, one slip could have been deadly. Always inspect your gear before use: Check harnesses for frays,

ensure lifelines are free of knots, and verify anchor points are secure. OSHA fines for non-compliance can hit $16,000 per violation or more, but more importantly, it saves lives.

2. Roof Access and Ladders: Safe Entry and Exit (OSHA 29 CFR 1926.1053)

Getting to the roof safely is step one. Slips on ladders cause more injuries than you'd think.

- **Ladder Requirements:** Use only Type IA or IAA ladders rated for 300+ pounds. Set up at a 4:1 angle (1 foot out for every 4 feet up), extend 3 feet above the roof edge, and secure the top and bottom.
- **Roof Holes and Edges:** Cover holes larger than 1 inch with plywood secured on all sides, marked "HOLE" in 2-inch letters. Never step on fragile surfaces like skylights without reinforcement.
- **Training:** OSHA requires us to train us in recognizing hazards and proper equipment use. If you're new to the crew, pair up with a veteran for your first few days.

Quick question: How many of you have seen a ladder not tied off? Let's call it out next time—it's a team effort.

3. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and Other Hazards (OSHA 29 CFR 1926.95-106)

PPE is our last line of defense. OSHA demands employers provide and train on it free of charge.

- **Head, Eye, and Foot Protection:** Hard hats for overhead risks, safety glasses for debris, and steel-toe boots for punctures.
- **Harnesses and Lanyards:** As mentioned, mandatory for fall arrest. Retractable lifelines are great for slopes—keep them clean and stored properly.
- **Additional Risks:** Watch for electrical hazards near power lines (OSHA 1926.416), maintain 10 feet clearance. Heat stress is rising with climate change; hydrate every 15 minutes and take shaded breaks. Slips from moss or wet surfaces. Use non-slip boots and secure materials.

OSHA's general duty clause (Section 5(a)(1)) covers anything that creates a "recognized hazard", so if it's unsafe, it's against the rules. Document inspections daily; it'll protect us in audits.

Real-Life Examples and Discussion

Let's make this real. Last year in Colorado, a roofer in Denver fell 20 feet from an unprotected edge, OSHA cited the company $150,000 and shut down the site. But here's the good news: A crew in Fort Collins avoided disaster by insisting on harnesses during a windy install. What hazards have you seen lately?

Key Takeaways

1. Fall protection at 6 feet, guardrails, nets, or harnesses. Inspect everything.
2. Secure ladders and cover holes religiously.
3. Wear your PPE; it's non-negotiable.
4. Report hazards immediately—no blame, just fixes.

OSHA isn't the enemy; it's our blueprint for survival. I commit to leading by example: I'll double-check tie-offs on every job. Now, it’s your turn.

Thanks for your attention. Questions? Otherwise, sign the sheet, and let's get to work safely. Stay sharp out there!

Safety Meeting Sign-Off Sheet

Date: _____

Job Name: _____

Competent Person Name: _____

Competent Person Signature: _____

Topic: Roofing Safety

Attendees:	