

19/02/2020

# Solar Installation – Fall from roof

7 January 2020

## Incident overview

An apprentice electrician fractured his pelvis and vertebrae after falling more than three metres from a roof while installing solar panels at a construction site in Parklea.



Worker fell from the roof of the building.

## The investigation

- SafeWork NSW inspectors responded to the incident.
- SafeWork NSW commenced an investigation to determine the cause and circumstances of the incident.

## Safety information

Businesses are reminded of their duty to identify hazards and manage risks to health and safety in accordance with the provisions of the [Work Health and Safety Act 2011](#) and [Work Health and Safety Regulation 2017](#).

Businesses must implement 'reasonably practicable' control measures to manage the risks associated with falls from roofs. Make sure:

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- you work from the ground or on a solid construction, wherever possible
- before accessing the roof, you:
  - plan the work and use the right equipment to access the roof
  - discuss the work with all workers
  - check the condition of the roof and type of roofing material
- the roof is dry and clean
- workers have a safe means of access and egress to work areas
- a fall prevention device – temporary work platform, edge protection, guardrails or scaffolding – is used and workers know how to use them
- a fall-restraint or fall-arrest system – harness, lifeline or industrial safety net – is only used when edge protection or work platforms are not reasonably practicable
- you securely cover and mark, or edge protect, all open penetrations in the roof
- ladders are placed at a ratio of 1:4 to the wall, secured at the top and bottom, and extended at least one metre above the roof edge – and you always maintain three points of contact
- you consider using an elevating work platform or scaffolding instead of a ladder
- your workers always use equipment properly.

## More information

- [Video safety alert – Solar Installation – risks of falls](#)
- [Code of practice for managing the risk of falls at workplaces](#)
- [Code of practice for managing the risk of falls in housing construction](#)
- [Construction falls from heights safety checklist](#) (for principle contractors and site supervisors)
- [Video safety alert – Solar Installation – electrical risks](#)