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WORKING SAFELY  
AT HEIGHT TOOLKIT

Factsheet



## Short duration work at height



### What is short duration work?

Short duration work is the tasks that are measured in minutes rather than hours. This includes inspections, replacing a few tiles, or minor adjustment to a television aerial.



### Assessing and controlling height hazards for short duration work

Plan a safe approach for short duration work at height.

First assess the hazards of working at height for short duration work. Then decide on the best controls for managing these hazards. There must be a safe system of work in place.

Choosing the right controls means selecting the best work method to **eliminate**, **isolate** or **minimise** the risk of the hazard of working at height.

Effort is in proportion to risk – the greater the risk, the greater the controls. Remember, **doing nothing is not an option**.



1. Eliminate



2. Isolate



3. Minimise

the risk of the  
significant hazard

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## Selecting the right controls

When you are planning short duration work at height consider:

- how long will the work take?
- how complex is the work?
- what is the pitch of the roof?
- what is the condition of the roof?
- what type of material is the roof made of?
- what are the weather conditions?
- is there a risk to workers while edge protection is being erected?
- is there a risk to other workers and the public?

The minimum requirements for short duration work on a roof are:

- a safe way of accessing the roof level
- a safe way of working on the roof.

In most circumstances the minimum requirement for short duration work on a sloping roof is a properly constructed and supported roof ladder.

In most circumstances the minimum requirement for short duration work on a flat roof without edge protection is a harness with a short lanyard attached to secured anchorage.



The Working Safely at Height Toolkit includes:

Factsheet 1: Planning a safe approach to working at height

Factsheet 2: Selecting the right equipment for working safely at height

**Factsheet 3: Short duration work at height**

Factsheet 4: Edge protection

Factsheet 5: Temporary work platforms

Factsheet 6: Total restraint system

For a copy of the Best Practice Guidelines for Working at Height in New Zealand:

<http://www.dol.govt.nz/prevent-falls/information.asp>