

## *Working from Heights – Vehicle Roof Repairs*

Dealership managers and employees should recognize the fall hazards of working from heights when performing work on the roof of vehicles. Dealerships should establish safety procedures that are to be followed in order to prevent falls from heights when accessing vehicle roof tops.

OSHA's Fall Protection Standard states that a Personal Fall Arrest, or other fall protection system, is required if there is a risk that a worker may fall from an elevated position and should be used anytime employees are working at a height of four feet or more.

The following additional safety precautions are recommended when completing repairs that require employees to access the roof of a vehicle or be completely on top of the roof of a vehicle:

- Have a spotter on the ground that can communicate and advise the employee of their distance from the edge and warn them of any danger.
- Face the shortest distance from the edge of the vehicle at all times.
- Remain on your knees if possible to ensure a lower center of gravity.
- If required to be in a standing position, ensure you have verbal contact with your spotter, so the spotter may act as a safety officer.
- If a heavy object is to be installed or removed from the roof, remain in a lower center of gravity position and make sure additional assistance is present to follow proper lifting procedures and maintaining safety measures.
- Always be sure to have the proper personnel present to lift heavy objects and aid in the safety of the employee working in a raised elevation.
- If it is necessary to work on the side edge of a vehicle, the employee shall use the safety ladder or stool provided, maintain awareness of work surface edges, and ensure that all safety measures are taken to ensure protection from a fall.
- Be cautious of the placement of electrical cords, air hoses, or any other tool that could present a tangle risk. The spotter shall aid in alerting the employee to the location of said cord or hose.
- Place tools without cords or hoses on the edge and retrieve them from the safety ladder or lower them in a safe manor, separate from the employee descending from the top of the vehicle.
- Always use a spotter when ascending to the top of the vehicle.
- Do not use a step ladder to access to the top of a vehicle.
- At no point should work be performed from a stepladder with over half of your body exposed above the top of the ladder.
- Employees should be trained in the proper use of Personal Fall Arrest systems. All training should be documented.

**For additional information, check out the following links:**

- OSHA: <https://www.osha.gov/SLTC/fallprotection/evaluation.html>
- OSHA: [https://www.osha.gov/Region7/fallprotection/fall\\_protection\\_info.html](https://www.osha.gov/Region7/fallprotection/fall_protection_info.html)

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