Pre-use Checks for Specific Roofing Equipment Stats and Facts



FACTS

1. **Falls from Heights:** Defective fall protection equipment, such as harnesses or anchor systems, can fail during use, leading to falls.
2. **Ladder-Related Accidents:** Using ladders with structural defects increases the risk of falls and injuries.
3. **Slips and Trips:** Uneven or slippery surfaces increase the risk of slips and trips, leading to potential falls.
4. **Electrical Hazards:** Damaged power tools or equipment can expose workers to electrical shocks or burns. Regular inspections help identify issues like frayed cords or faulty components.
5. **Exposure to Hazardous Substances:** Equipment used to handle materials like hot bitumen must be in proper working condition to prevent leaks or spills, which can cause burns or respiratory issues.
6. **Heat-Related Illnesses:** Working with equipment that generates heat, such as torches, requires inspection to prevent malfunctions that could lead to heat stress or burns.

STATS

- In 2021, the construction industry experienced 986 fatal worker injuries, with 390 resulting from falls. During the same period, there were 123 roofing worker fatalities, with 99 due to falls. Falls accounted for 39% of total fatalities in the construction industry and 81% of roofing industry deaths.
- In 2020, the roofing industry was cited for almost $20 million in OSHA penalties, with approximately $13 million (65%) related to fall protection violations.
- Electrocutions account for approximately 11% of roofing-related deaths, highlighting the importance of electrical safety measures.
- In December 2020, a roofing worker in London, Ontario, suffered injuries after falling 15 feet through an unguarded HVAC opening. The employer was fined $75,000 for failing to ensure proper fall protection and headgear, highlighting the severe consequences of neglecting safety protocols.
- Falls are the leading cause of death in the construction industry, accounting for over 3,500 fatalities. Falls from roofs accounted for nearly 1,200, or 34%, of these deaths.