



Translucent Panels Pose Fall Risk to Firefighters

Responding to roof fires at night is dangerous. Translucent Panels pose additional fall risk for Firefighters.

Firefighters have been seriously injured due to falling through the roofs of commercial buildings during night operations.

The NIOSH Fire Fighter Fatality and Prevention Program issued a Safety Advisory concerning operations on roofs with translucent corrugated roof panels. The Safety Advisory was posted on November 20, 2015.

DETAILS HERE

NIOSH Safety Advisory—Fire Fighter Fatality and Prevention Program

Translucent Corrugated Roof Panels May Contribute to Increased Fall Risk during Roof Operations
<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/docs/2016-110/pdfs/2016-110.pdf>

Recommended actions include:

- Ensure that all firefighters, company officers and chief officers are aware of and are trained to recognize translucent corrugated roof panels.
- Establish policies and procedures to ensure that firefighters do not walk or stand on translucent corrugated roof panels.
- Ensure firefighters immediately inform the incident commander and other fire fighters when translucent corrugated roof panels are identified.
- Ensure firefighters follow safe roof operating practices including sounding the roof, having enough ladders for safe exit and always wearing the proper PPE, including self-contained breathing apparatus.



Translucent panels are flush with the roof surface. At night, they are difficult to detect and typically do not include a frame.

NIOSH Fire Fighter Fatality Investigation and Prevention Program Website
www.cdc.gov/niosh/fire

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