

# Toolbox Talk

## Fragile Roofs



### What?

- All persons involved in roof work need to be aware of the risks presented by a roof being or that may become fragile
- Heights, unprotected edges, perimeter walls, skylights, and physical exposure to natural elements can put workers at risk for slips and falls
- Existing asbestos cement sheets and old roof lights can weaken over time and should always be treated as fragile

### Why?

- Deaths caused by falls through fragile surfaces occur mainly to those carrying out building and equipment maintenance
- On average 10 people are killed each year after falling through a fragile roof or fragile roof light when working on the equipment. Many others suffer permanent life changing injuries
- When planning work activities on fragile roofs reference any site inspection reports to ascertain the age and condition of the panels

### Do



- ✓ Reference any site inspection reports on the age and condition of panels
- ✓ Avoid working on panels if the work can be done some other way
- ✓ Carry out Point of Work Risk Assessment prior to work on any roof being started
- ✓ Make sure you select the right equipment for the task
- ✓ Check the equipment for damage or defects before use
- ✓ Make sure you are trained to handle it properly and check it before use
- ✓ Ensure if wearing a harness that it's always connected
- ✓ Report any damage to panels or equipment used

### Don't



- ✗ Start work without knowing the Safe Working Load of the roof
- ✗ Work near leading edges
- ✗ Work in adverse weather conditions
- ✗ Work at height without the proper equipment
- ✗ 'Climb' the structure, always use a ladder
- ✗ Use defective equipment
- ✗ Forget to secure ladders properly
- ✗ Work with your harness unconnected
- ✗ Work without the correct Permit
- ✗ Forget to leave the roof tidy when you finish