

# Working at height safety



**Working at heights poses a significant risk of falls, which can result in severe injuries or even fatalities. Working safely at heights is of utmost importance as it prevents falls and injuries, protects workers' lives and well-being.**

Specifically, working at heights includes:

- working in a location and having the potential to fall 2 metres or more.
- work in an elevated location where a tool or object could fall and injury a person.
- potential to fall from an edge through an opening or fragile surface.
- potential to fall from ground level into an opening in a floor or hole in the ground.
- working on a roof within 3 metres of an open edge.

## What you need to know

Perth Airport has many locations where working at height is required to access or maintain infrastructure. More buildings are being constructed and work at heights is eliminated where possible, but it still exists.

Falls from any height can result in death. Falls can occur in various ways at Perth Airport, including from:

- working on top of roofs or fixed plant.
- ladders, scaffolding, or mobile plant used to access structures.
- working near holes or excavations
- working on or near fragile surfaces

## Perth Airport Specific

All working at heights activities at Perth Airport which may impact Perth Airport property, people, public or operations must have a Perth Airport approved permit before work commences and follow Perth Airport High Risk Activity requirements. This includes all work in terminals, public areas, airside areas and where work is contracted by Perth Airport.





## What you need to do

**Method:** Workers should understand the activity, inspect the area, and identify the best method of working at height. Can you eliminate working at height? Talk to a Perth Airport Representative if unsure.

**SWMS:** A site-specific Safe Work Method Statement (SWMS) must be in place for the works, it must be understood by the workers and Supervisor.

**Permit:** Before commencing work at height, have a PAPL approved permit to work, or have a written exception from needing a permit.

**Barricades and Warning Signs:** Solid barricades and warning signs to restrict access to areas where work is being performed at heights must be set up before works commence. Clearly mark the boundaries to prevent unauthorised entry and alert others to the potential hazards.

**Spotters:** Dedicated spotters must be positioned outside the works area when working at heights in public areas.

**Equipment Inspection:** All equipment involved in the activity must be inspected prior to use, including ladders, EWPs, harnesses, and all anchor points.

**Ladders:** Platform ladders are preferred for tasks, but mandatory for whenever conducting work from a ladder.

**Roof Access:** If accessing a Perth Airport terminal roof and a working at heights permit is not required, a Roof access permit will be required.



**EWP:** Operators must be trained and competent, occupants must always wear a harness.

**Skylights and Fragile roof materials:** There are numerous skylights and fragile surfaces on roofs throughout the airport estate. Worker must not stand on these surfaces. Workers must use the walkways where provided.

**Rescue plan:** Ensure a rescue procedure tailored to the specific working conditions and potential risks involved is in place. It should give clear instructions on how to safely reach and provide assistance to a worker in need, ensuring minimal delay and maximum safety.

**Communication and Cooperation:** Communicate effectively with your colleagues and supervisor to coordinate work activities and address safety concerns. Cooperate with others to maintain a safe work environment and report any unsafe conditions or behaviours.