

SECTION 2

Read the text below and answer Questions 15-22

Safety when working on roofs

A fall from height is the most serious hazard associated with roof work. Preventing falls from roofs is a priority for *WorkSafe New Zealand*. Investigation by *WorkSafe* into falls that occur while working at height show that more than 50 percent of falls are from under three metres, and most of these are from ladders and roofs. The cost of these falls is estimated to be \$24 million a year – to say nothing of the human costs that result from these falls. More injuries happen on residential building sites than any other workplace in the construction sector.

In order to prevent such injuries, a hazard assessment should be carried out for all work on roofs to assess potential dangers. It is essential that the hazards are identified before the work starts, and that the necessary equipment, appropriate precautions and systems of work are provided and implemented. Hazard identification should be repeated periodically or when there is a change in conditions, for example, the weather or numbers of staff onsite.

The first thing to be considered is whether it is possible to eliminate this hazard completely, so that workers are not exposed to the danger of falling. This can sometimes be done at the design, construction planning, and tendering stage. If the possibility of a fall cannot be eliminated, some form of edge protection should be used to prevent workers from falling. It may be possible to use the existing scaffolding as edge protection. If this is not practicable, then temporary work platforms should be used. In cases where such protection is not possible, then steps should be taken to minimise the likelihood of any harm resulting. This means considering the use of safety nets and other similar systems to make it less likely that injury will be caused if a fall does occur.

Ladders should only be employed for short-duration maintenance work such as touching up paint. People using ladders should be trained and instructed in the selection and safe use of ladders. There should be inspection of all ladders on a regular basis to ensure they are safe to use.

Questions 15-22

Complete the notes below.

Choose **NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS AND/OR A NUMBER** from the text for each answer.

Write your answers in boxes **15-22** on your answer sheet.

Get ready for IELTS reading



IELTS GENERAL READING PRACTICE 3

Safety when working on roofs

Investigations show that

- over half of falls are from less than **15**.....
- most falls are from ladders and roofs
- falls cost \$24 million per year
- the majority of falls occur on **16**.....

Hazard identification should be carried out

- before the work starts
- when conditions such as the weather or worker numbers change

Controls

- **17** the hazard at the planning stage before the work begins if possible
- prevent a fall by using edge protection, e.g. scaffolding or **18**.....
- reduce the likelihood of injury, e.g. by using **19**.....

Ladders

- these should only be used for **20**..... which does not take a long time
- training should be provided in their **21**..... and use
- regular **22**..... of ladders is required

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