

Prevention Update



Flat Roof Control Zones (Warning Line System)

Falls from heights are a significant cause of work-related injuries on PEI and they can happen in a split-second. Serious injury or even death can occur when the required safe work practices for working at heights aren't followed.

Any person, working at a height of three meters or more, must have a fall protection system in place. This includes when working on scaffolding, on elevated work platforms, on roofs or on any other place that presents a fall hazard.

PEI's *Occupational Health and Safety Act* – Fall Protection Regulations set out the fall protection measures that an employer must provide for workers who are working at heights.

Part 2 (1)(h) of the Fall Protection Regulations details the acceptable use of a warning line system on a flat roof as an alternative means of fall protection.

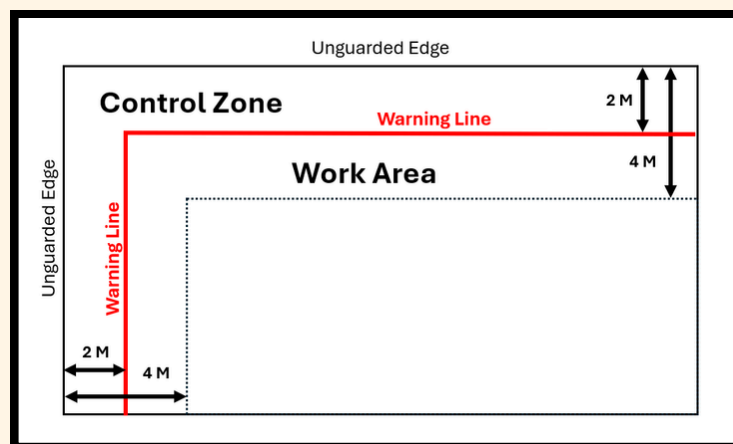


A warning line system is **only an alternative means of fall protection for work on flat roofs**.
Work on any other style of roof requires a different means of fall protection.

Flat roof control zones

The control zone is the surface area between the unguarded edge of a building or structure, and a raised warning line set back two metres. If a worker is working outside the control zone, and within four metres of the unguarded edge, a raised warning line is an acceptable means of fall protection.

The image (right) illustrates the control zone extending from the raised warning line, which alerts workers to the presence of the unguarded edge.



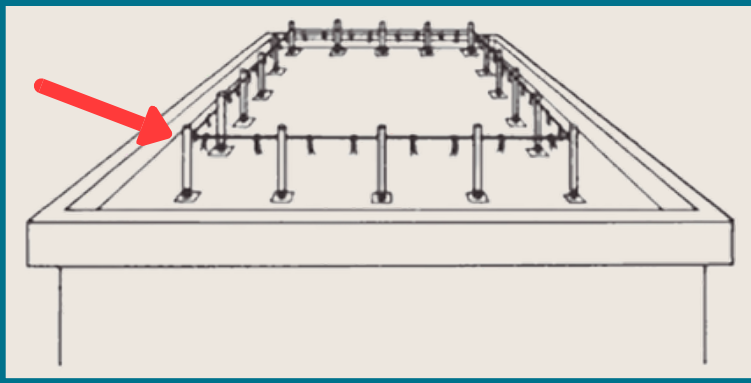
If a worker is working in the control zone then they must use fall protection. Acceptable forms of fall protection include guardrails, travel restraint, fall arrest, and safety nets.

A control zone cannot be used if the work area is less than four metres wide. If the work area is less than four metres wide, another means of fall protection is required as outlined in the Regulations.

Raised Warning Line

The raised warning line must be at least two metres from the unguarded edge. The purpose of the warning line is not to prevent access to the control zone, but to provide a visual and physical reminder of the presence of the hazard.

This image illustrates the raised warning line in position to remind workers of the unprotected edge.



For compliance purposes, a raised warning line can consist of ropes, wires or chains, and supporting stanchions. A raised warning line must be:

- Flagged or marked with highly visible materials at intervals that do not exceed two metres.
- Rigged and supported so that its lowest point (including sag) is not less than 0.9 metres (34 inches) from the walking or working surface and its highest point is not more than 1.2 metres (45 inches) from the walking or working surface.
- Attached to each stanchion so that pulling one section of the line between stanchions does not cause slack in the adjacent section before the stanchion tips over.

When applied as set out in the Regulations, flat roof control zones and warning line systems can help prevent falls. Employers must follow all requirements and make sure workers are properly trained and supervised.

For more information on fall protection, visit wcb.pe.ca.