



# Anchor point

## Precautions:

- ❑ Don't use anything – like a beam or a projection – with sharp edges. It can abrade or cut your lanyard.
- ❑ Don't tie off to something tacked or patched to the structure, or to suspension devices. Look for an anchor point that is integral to the structure, or install an anchor.

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**FALL PROTECTION**

The anchor point must be structurally sound and capable of holding 5,000 pounds, which is two and a half tons.

If no good anchor point is available in the structure being worked on, permanent or reusable anchors can be attached to roof decks or beams.

In the following case, workers had installable anchors but didn't use them properly. Nobody was hurt, thankfully, but the company got fined.

### **REAL-LIFE EXAMPLE**

Jackie – we'll call him that – was a foreman for a roofing company, Northwest Shake Tile. His crew was putting a roof on a house under construction when a safety compliance officer happened by. He climbed up one of the ladders and had a look around.

"What's the deal with these anchors?" the compliance officer asked.

"You can see we've got 'em on both ends of the ridge line and in the middle," Jackie responded. "I make sure all the guys tie off when they're up here."

"That's not what I mean," the compliance officer said, bending over to look closer at the anchor. "You've got these anchors attached with ordinary nails, five to an anchor. That's not going to hold a 200-pound guy in free fall."

"Well, we tested them by attaching a sack of sand and dropping it off the roof," Jackie said defensively.

"I don't care," the inspector said. "Five nails is enough to hold about 500 pounds, but a falling man can exert 2,000 pounds of force. That would rip these nails right out."

The roofing company ended up getting fined \$1,500 for the safety violation.

*(ask the participants)*

### **What did Jackie do wrong?**

**Correct answer:** It wasn't as though Jackie totally ignored fall protection. He made sure there was one anchor for each worker, that the anchors were installed, and that everybody tied off.

Where he went wrong was in failing to understand just how much force a fall can generate, and failing to attach the anchors so they could withstand such a fall.

*(Oregon Occupational Safety & Health Div. v. Northwest Shake Tile, Oregon Workers' Compensation Board)*