

PestSure Safety

INSURING THE FUTURE OF PEST CONTROL

Tips

A five-minute training Series for Pest Management Professionals.

Tips for Working in Attics

Inadequate lighting, poor ventilation, unstable footing, limited means of access and egress, and overhead hazards all combine to make an attic a difficult and sometimes hazardous place to complete your work tasks.

Safety while working in attics begins with your access to the attic. If the pull-down attic stairway is not in good repair or if the construction is not adequate to handle the weight of both you and your gear, use your ladder instead. Often attic access systems, because they are so rarely used, are left in disrepair or have deteriorated to the point of being unstable.

Be very careful moving around in the attic. Watch out for overhead rafters, and walk only on ceiling joists. If you have room, lay a plywood panel across the ceiling joists to walk or kneel on. A bump cap or hard hat should be worn, since roofing nails may be sticking through the sheathing. Remember to bring your flashlight.

Heating and air conditioning units and vents, water heaters, plumbing and electrical runs, and computer, phone and media cabling can all reside in the attic. Each one of these present a trip and fall hazard for you. In addition, electrical wiring can add the potential for electric shock to the mix.

Always alert someone when you will be working in an attic. If it is appropriate, let the home or business owner know. Otherwise, call your office before you enter and when you exit. Be sure to keep your phone or radio with you when performing attic work so you can summon help should you be injured or trapped.

Working in attics or other hot areas can cause excessive sweating. Keep yourself well hydrated and leave the workspace at regular intervals to cool down and drink water. When possible, schedule attic work early in the morning before the heat of the day.



Finally, you need to make certain you can make your way safely back out of the attic. If the access port to the attic was a tight squeeze on the way up, you will have more trouble getting back out of the space when your work is complete. Remember too, you may have to exit an attic in a hurry if you run into some sort of problem up there. Your work in pest control is often carried out in places not designed for human habitation. You can reduce your chance of injury through adequate planning and preparation.

