

This Week's Learning Objective:

Assessment of the Attic Space

Materials Needed for this Session:

A copy of "Things to Consider" sheet for each attendee.

A copy of the PestSure Loss Lesson – "Attic Fall" to read to the group during this session.

Leader Notes / Training Outline

1. Review the PestSure Loss Lesson – "Attic Fall". Encourage discussion.
2. Each attendee should have a copy of the "Things to Consider" sheet to take notes.
3. Review the "Things to Consider" sheet discussing each point in the table. As a group, discuss any items specific to your work in attics. Encourage note taking.
4. Open the discussion to the attendees. See Leader Tips below.

- _____
- _____
- _____



Leader Tips:

Announce the learning objective: Our objective today is _____

Explain to the group why this topic is being reviewed:

- Prevent you from being injured
- Prevent property damage
- Prevent injury to others
- .

Ask the **group to discuss** the subject matter and give input by drawing from their work experiences:

- Attendee to relate a personal story involving this objective
- Attendee to share something learned on the job involving this objective
- .
- .

Things to Consider in Preparation for Attic Work

Discussion Points:	My Notes:
Access	Access
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is the attic ladder structurally safe or do we need to use our ladder 	
Navigating	Navigating
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Confirm a safe path of travel in the attic before beginning work and consider using attic boards 	
Electrical Hazards	Electrical Hazards
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use a device to check any suspect areas for current and visually inspect any exposed electrical wiring in your path before beginning work 	
Lighting	Lighting
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is the space adequately lit or do you need to run temporary lighting before working 	
Partners	Partners
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attic access should be done as a team. In lieu of a team, the customer should be notified you will be in the attic and a call made to your office prior to entry 	
Irritants	Irritants
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What is in the attic air space and on attic surfaces 	
Flooring	Flooring
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Be certain of the structure and its ability to support you 	
Working In Heat	Working in Heat
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Time your work for early morning or cool season and vent the space if possible 	
Insect Concerns	Insect Concerns
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PPE, what is hiding, consider your inability to quickly escape 	
Animal Diseases/Exposure	Animal Disease/Exposure
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PPE, what is hiding, consider your inability to quickly escape 	
Safety gear	Safety Gear
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Crawl suit, bump cap, eye protection, what else 	
Documentation	Documentation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Photo's before and after your work 	

From: Midyett, Linda
Sent: Tuesday, August 01, 2006 12:06 PM
Subject: Loss Lesson - Attic Fall

PestSure Members,

A PestSure workers' compensation claim as well as a ceiling repair bill resulted when a technician fell through a home's ceiling from the attic and into the main floor bath. Our technician was in the attic looking for evidence of rodent activity, when his foot slipped off of a gas line pipe that was not visible when he placed his foot in that spot. The technician lost his balance and went through the ceiling below him and landed on the floor of the main floor bathroom.

The acceleration of the technicians fall through the 10 foot ceiling was slightly controlled by the ceiling material that he fell through. He landed on a carpeted floor below which also helped decrease his injuries upon impact. The outcome of this slip and fall could have been much more severe for this employee.

Lesson:

- Attics present hazardous walking/working surfaces in tight and poorly lit spaces. You are often required to navigate them in an awkward body position.
- When possible, be certain there is someone else in the home or building when accessing an attic or crawlspace.
- Before entering an attic, take a moment to study your path of travel looking at overhead and walking surface potential hazards and determining areas to stabilize yourself should you lose balance.
- Attempt to adequately illuminate the space that you will access to assist in spotting hazards.
- Don't overload yourself with equipment. Try to keep your hands free for balance and to grab hold of something should you begin to fall.
- Plan your entry route, the equipment you will need, your treatment activities, and your exit, prior to ever entering the space.

In this case, our technician was very fortunate to sustain limited injuries. He viewed this task as a very "routine" part of his job. Attic access is hazardous and for those who do it often in their work, the need to avoid complacency is paramount. Please discuss the importance of hazard analysis and planning for attic access with your technicians. Discuss methods, considerations, and experience as a group.

Please share and discuss this Loss Lesson with your entire team so they can apply the knowledge in the field and we can all learn from this event.

Linda Midyett

[PestSure](#)

Manager, Safety and Loss Prevention