

## This Week's Learning Objective:

### Working in the Attic

## Materials Needed for this Session:

A copy of the PestSure Safety Tip "Tips for Working in Attics".

Copies of the Quiz "Tips for Working in Attics, enough for each attendee.

Gather any gear you will discuss for use when accessing an attic space and bring it to the session.

## Leader Notes / Training Outline

1. Review the PestSure Safety Tip "Tips for Working in Attics". Encourage discussion. Each attendee should have a copy of the Quiz to complete after discussion.
2. **Discuss** and show any gear you brought to the session that should be used when accessing attics.
3. **Discuss** your company procedure if you find an attic space that is unsafe or inaccessible.
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
- .
- .

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
- .
- .

# PestSure Safety Tips

INSURING THE FUTURE OF PEST CONTROL

**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.



**PestSure**  **Safety Tips**  
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Tips for Working in Attics

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

- |  | True                     | False                    |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Inadequate lighting can pose a hazard for you when you are working in an attic.   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. The attic access ladder provided by the home or business is always the best way to gain access to the attic.                    | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. Most ceilings will hold your weight as long as you walk softly when not on a joist.   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. Attics often have limited overhead clearance and sharp objects protruding; both hazards can be minimized by wearing a bump cap. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. Rest breaks from an attic job are necessary both for re-hydration and to allow your body to cool down.                          | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |