



Worksite: _____ Instructor: _____ Date/Time: _____

Topic C378: Carpenter/Framing (B Setting Roof Trusses & Rafters)

Introduction: Setting and bracing roof trusses falls into OSHA's Group 1 activities category and in addition to the general requirements for construction work the following rules apply:

Installing roof trusses and erecting rafters:

Walls up to 8 feet: Interior scaffolds must be used along the interior wall (below the area where the trusses/rafters will be located).

Walls over 8 feet: If using scaffolds and ladders would create a greater hazard, the following general requirements and specific procedures apply.

- **Falling objects/restricted access:** Once truss/rafter installation begins, workers not involved in that activity must not stand or walk below or adjacent to the roof opening or exterior walls anywhere they could be struck by falling objects.
- **Bracing:** Trusses/rafters must be adequately braced before any worker may use them as a support.
- **Designated, trained workers:** The employer must designate and train any workers who will work on the top plate, and those who work on the peak.
- **Restricted duties:** Top plate workers may have no other duties during truss/rafter erection.

Workers must not remain on or in the peak/ridge any longer than necessary to complete the task safely.

Procedures for working on the top plate:

Installing the first two trusses:

- The first two trusses/rafters must be set from ladders.
- The ladders must lean on side walls at points where the walls can support the load imposed by the ladder and worker.
- After the first two trusses/rafters have been set, a worker will climb a ladder to the interior top plate to secure their peaks.

Workers will remain on the top plate and use the previously stabilized trusses/rafters as support while the others are erected.

Fall protection must be provided for top plate workers.

Procedures for working at the peak:

When workers are permitted to work on peaks/ridge beam:

- Workers detaching trusses from cranes or securing trusses at the peaks may be positioned at the peak of the trusses/rafters.
- Workers may be stationed on the top of the ridge beam where that is the only way to secure rafters to the ridge beam.

Stable work position:

- Workers at the peak, in the web of trusses, or on top of the ridge beam shall work from a stable position.
- They must either sit on a ridge seat (or the equivalent) or position themselves in previously stabilized trusses/rafters and lean into, and reach through, the trusses/rafters.
- Workers must not remain on or in the peak/ridge any longer than necessary to complete the task safely.

Temporary bracing: Temporary bracing is used during the erection of roof trusses to prevent the trusses from bucking and falling over during the erection process. It is a series of continuous braces along the top and bottom chords of the truss and may include "X" bracing between vertical web members of the trusses. Temporary bracing is extremely important to safety during the erection of trusses and is required by all major building codes.

Permanent bracing for the overall stability of the structure: Permanent bracing for the overall stability of the structure is required by the major building codes and is required to brace the overall truss system and structure as an entire system. The design of this bracing is generally the responsibility of the building designer.

Conclusion: This meeting details specific safety procedures for setting and bracing trusses. **Topic M430:** Carpenter/Framing Safety (Part A-OSHA Group 1) gives general requirements for Group 1 activities, and **Topic M432:** Carpenter/Framing Safety (Part C) covers roof/floor sheathing, and floor joists.

Employee Attendance: (Names or signatures of personnel who are attending this meeting)

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These guidelines do not supersede local, state, or federal regulations and must not be construed as a substitute for, or legal interpretation of, any OSHA regulations.