

Construction and Demolition pertaining to Roofing and hot works

Alberta Fire Code 2014, Section 5.6. speaks to Construction and Demolition sites. It is important to note that this Section applies to fire safety for buildings, parts of buildings, facilities, adjacent buildings or facilities, and associated areas undergoing construction, alteration or demolition operations.

This includes, and is not limited to, roof repairs using torches.

Companies are required to complete a fire safety plan and submit the plan into the local Authority Having Jurisdiction (either the local Fire Prevention Department or the Building Safety Codes Department) for review and acceptance.

Sentence 5.6.1.3. (3) states the following:

Where construction, alteration or demolition involves hot work, a fire safety plan, accepted in writing by the fire department and the authority having jurisdiction, shall be prepared for the site.

The use of a torch, or the application of tar or bitumen, to conduct roofing installations or repairs is considered a form of Hot Work, as defined in the Alberta Fire Code:

Hot work means the burning, welding, heating of a material, or a similar operation that is capable of initiating fires or explosions including, but not limited to, cutting, welding, Thermite welding, brazing, soldering, grinding, thermal spraying, thawing pipe, torch-applied roofing or membrane, adhesive bonding, or any other similar heat-producing activity.

If your organization is conducting any hot work applications on a roof, you must contact the local AHJ to determine your responsibilities for a fire safety plan and quite possibly the need for a Hot Works permit.

Last updated/reviewed March 2018

For more information, please call Municipal Affairs, Safety Services at 1-866-421-6929 or visit www.municipalaffairs.alberta.ca