



Photovoltaic panel falling casualties

How dangerous is a photovoltaic installation?

Safety risks and mitigation measures Falls from elevated surfaces are the most significant contributing occupational hazard to fatalities in the construction industry (Dong et al.,2019,U.S. Department of Labor,1990). Photovoltaic installations performed on elevated working surfaces expose installers to the risk of falling from dangerous heights.

Are solar installers exposed to a fall accident?

Although there is a lack of formalized reporting and verification of solar worker fall accident data,it is clear that most residential and commercial solar installers are exposedto the risk factors clarified in the previous paragraph.

Are there occupational safety risks associated with solar PV installation?

An obstacle to solar PV growth is the severity of the occupational safety risks associated with their installation. Although PV installers are known to experience some of the most significant and widespread construction-related occupational safety risks, PV installer accident investigation research, reporting, and verification are limited.

Which safety risks are associated with PV installations?

Through reviewing these articles,four major safety risk categories were identified as being associated with PV installations: (1) electrical and fire risks,(2) heat stress,(3) manual handling risks,and (4) fall risks.

Are rooftop PV installers at a high risk of falling?

Roofers,in particular,have similar tasks to PV installers and are known to have the highest rates of fatal fall occurrences in the construction industry (Dong et al.,2019,Huang and Hinze,2003). This strongly indicates that rooftop PV installers are at a high riskof falling from heights.

Can solar panels fall from height?

"Falls from height are also a riskwhen installing solar panels. While this case did not involve any falls,solar installers and contractors are reminded to establish and implement a site-specific fall prevention plan to eliminate or mitigate the risk of falling from height," it added.

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