***Potential Hazards -***

Working on a roof may present several hazards including:

* Falling off the edge of the roof;
* Falling through the roof or skylight etc;
* Slips and trips;
* Exposure to elements (heat, cold, wind, rain, sunburn); and
* Exposure to fume-cupboard emissions,

***Risk Reduction and Controls -***

These hazards can be reduced by:

* All maintenance and service personnel who require access to the roof should report to the building custodian or building and services officer or senior workshop staff, to discuss the nature of the proposed work, the location of the equipment and whether it is safe to access the roof.
* A hazard assessment for work on the roof.

When fume-cupboards are present or involved:

* Consider emissions of fume cupboard exhausts in the near vicinity (<10m) of the proposed work (and access route).
* The hazard assessment will be easier with reference to a roof plan detailing the:

(1) location of fume cupboard exhausts, air-conditioning and other equipment, and roof access points,

(2) potential hazardous exhausts from particular fume cupboards,

(3) room number related to particular fume cupboard exhausts, and

(4) name and contact details of the supervisor(s) of particular fume cupboards.

* The service personnel will then be able to speak to the relevant fume cupboard supervisor(s), or visit the laboratories and assess whether the cupboards are in use, what chemicals are being used and the quantity involved.

*Note:* Under ideal operating conditioning nothing exits the exhaust stack that is above the occupational exposure standard, however, variation in workloads and air volume may result in higher emissions.

* The service personnel will then be able to make suitable arrangements:

(1) to complete the service work without delay and without further precautions;

(2) to postpone the work; or

(3) to shut down the fume cupboard for the period of the service work.

* The fume cupboard supervisor will also be able to warn other users (verbally and through a sign on the cupboard) of the presence of service personnel on the roof and the need to desist from hazardous operations in the fume cupboard until service work is completed and the service personnel are away from the area.
* At the completion of service work, the service personnel will notify the building officer who will then give the "all-clear" to the relevant fume cupboard supervisors for the fume cupboard to resume operation.
* Scheduled maintenance would also reduce any inconvenience to laboratory work.