

December 1, 2021

Advisory Bulletin AB-2021-08

Radiation Safety on Roofs

With the ever-increasing use and development of communication technology, there is an increased risk for those working in and around communication devices and equipment that emit radiofrequency electromagnetic fields (EMF). Examples of these devices include:

- Smart meters
- Cell phone towers
- Those using 5G technology

Open roof areas are often prime locations for this equipment. Anyone accessing these roof areas for any reason should be aware of the Occupational Health and Safety requirements and the Radiation Protection Act.

Health Canada has published Safety Code 6 which sets out recommended safety limits for human exposure to radiofrequency EMF in the frequency from 3 kHz to 300 GHz. This code outlines maximum exposure limits and basic restrictions based on Health Canada research and ongoing research of published studies of potential health effects.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/health-risks-safety/radiation/occupational-exposure-regulations/safety-code-6-radiofrequency-exposure-guidelines.html>

There are several handheld EMF personal safety monitors available on the market. These devices will measure exposure and allow workers to work in an exposed area for a limited time. Some possible monitors to consider:

1. Narda – Nardalert S3 Non-Ionizing Radiation Monitor
2. FieldSENSE FS60 5G Personal RF Monitor