Temporary Roof Tarping

1. **Check the roof from the ground first.**
    - Look for missing shingles, damaged flashing, holes, or areas where water is entering.
    - **Do not climb onto the roof** if it is wet, steep, structurally damaged, or has fallen branches/wires.
2. **Use a large, heavy-duty waterproof tarp.**
    - Ideally, the tarp should extend **at least 3–4 feet beyond the damaged area** on all sides.
3. **Position the tarp over the damage.**
    - If possible, run the tarp **over the ridge of the roof** so water flows over it rather than underneath it.
    - Keep the tarp reasonably tight and avoid creating pockets where water can collect.
4. **Secure the tarp without putting yourself in danger.**
    - Wrap the tarp edges around wooden boards (often called **2×12 battens**) and secure the boards with appropriate fasteners. (1 in. x 12-Gauge Plastic Round Cap Roofing Nails)
    - Secure the upper edge first, then the sides and lower edge.
    - Avoid simply placing loose bricks or heavy objects on the roof—they can slide and cause injury or additional damage.
5. **Protect the inside of the house.**
    - Put buckets under active leaks.
    - Move furniture and electronics away from the affected area.
    - If water is near electrical outlets, fixtures, or wiring, shut off power to the affected area **only if you can do so safely**.
6. **Have the roof professionally inspected.**
    - A tarp is only a temporary repair. The underlying roof damage should be repaired as soon as possible.