

Worksite: \_\_\_\_\_ Instructor: \_\_\_\_\_ Date/Time: \_\_\_\_\_

## Topic C459: Tear Off Roofing

**Introduction:** One of the most common causes of work-related deaths is falls from roofs. Injuries common to the roofing industry include broken bones and back injuries. Following are safety guidelines for tear-off roofing operations:

Roofing operations are classified as either single-unit or multi-unit. Single-unit roofs are built-up roofing, flat-seam metal roofing, and vinyl roofing. Multi-unit roofs are asphalt shingles, cement, clay and slate tile, standing seam metal panels, and shingle metal roofing.

Use adequate fall protection whenever a worker is six feet or more above a lower level.

**Fall protection:** The factors affecting fall hazards include, working height, hazard awareness, employee skill, work environment, and duration of exposure to the fall hazard. A personal fall arrest system (PFAS) prevents a worker from falling, and if the worker falls, it stops the fall. All workers should be trained in the use of equipment before beginning operations.

- Use fall protection such as a PFAS, scaffolding, and safety gear when workers are six feet or more above lower levels.
- A personal fall arrest (PFAS) system is used to stop an employee during a fall from any working level, and to keep them from hitting the ground. The system consists of an anchorage point, connectors, and a body harness. A lanyard, lifeline, deceleration device, or combination of these may be part of the system. Each employee must be attached to a separate lifeline.
- A competent person must determine if the roof is stable enough to support a conventional fall protection system anchorage. To minimize exposure to fall hazards, stage materials so workers on the roof have easy and safe access.
- Since June 16, 2011, roof brackets or slide guards no longer satisfy requirements for fall protection in residential construction because they are not as effective as a PFAS.
- When rope supports are used, they should consist of first-grade manila rope at least three-quarter-inch diameter, or equivalent.
- Roof anchors install quickly, and easily, for rooftop fall protection. Anchors can be used on either, steep pitch, or flat-surface roofs. A 5/8" thick, nylon rope lifeline, provides a large range of protected mobility. Use a shock-absorbing lanyard. Warning: If one leg is not in use, it should not be connected back into the harness as it may restrict the deployment of the shock absorber.

**Controlled Access Zones:** A Controlled Access Zone (CAZ) is a restricted zone around a work area. Document the CAZ in a written plan, and put barriers in place to restrict access. All debris from the roof tear-off (shingles, cement, slate tile, metal panels, or wood), must be contained.

Make sure the area where waste material is dropped is protected by barricades and warning signs are posted. Do not remove the guardrail when using chutes to load trucks. Also do not stand or walk below a work area.

**Personal Protective Equipment (PPE):** When hazards cannot be eliminated or controlled, workers must be protected by personal protective equipment. When tearing off a roof, workers can encounter a variety of hazardous materials. Rusty nails, sharp metals, microscopic dusts, and exposed insulation are a few of the hazards. Make sure all workers are properly protected from hazards.

- Eye protection: Safety glasses or safety goggles
- Hearing protection: Single use or molded earplugs
- Respiratory protection: Particulate respirators
- Foot and leg protection: Metatarsal guards, toe guards, foot and shin guards, knee guards, steel toed boots
- Hand and arm protection: Durable work gloves, elbow guards
- Back protection: Back support belt (if used properly)

**Conclusion:** All tear-off roofing operations can be successfully accomplished without injury if all fall protection devices are in place. Effectively address all safety concerns before starting a roofing project.

**Employee Attendance:** (Names or signatures of personnel who are attending this meeting)


*These guidelines do not supersede local, state, or federal regulations and must not be construed as a substitute for, or legal interpretation of, any OSHA regulations.*