

# Low Slope Roof Tear Off JHA

Worked instructional example

## Work and worksite

A roofing crew will remove released membrane and insulation from a low-slope commercial roof in controlled sections and lower contained debris through the planned waste route. This fictional learning example records planned controls; it supplies no actual inspections or work authorization.

- The roof investigation releases material hazards, deck condition and permitted work and storage loads.
- Access, edge and opening protection and the area below are established before removal.
- This excludes hazardous-material abatement, structural deck demolition and steep-slope shingle removal.

## Questions before work

- What confirms existing-material hazards and deck support?
- How will new openings and weak deck areas be protected immediately?
- Where may debris accumulate and how will it be lowered safely?

# Task Hazard Control

## 1 Release roof condition and materials

**Hazard:** Unknown asbestos, fragile deck or inadequate support can cause illness or collapse.

**Control:** Supervisor confirms material investigation, roof condition and permitted loads before disturbing the system. Hold uncertain areas for the required investigation.

**Verification:** Compare released work zones with the actual roof and material records.

**Reasoning:** Removal exposes conditions hidden beneath the covering.

## 2 Establish access and protection

**Hazard:** Workers can fall at edges, skylights, openings or access points.

**Control:** Provide the planned fall and opening protection, safe access and rescue arrangements. Separate the receiving area below and coordinate occupied-building interfaces.

**Verification:** Supervisor checks the work route and protected boundary before entry.

**Reasoning:** A skylight is not assumed to be a protective cover.

## 3 Stage tools and waste containment

**Hazard:** Poor staging can overload the roof or create trips and dropped objects.

**Control:** Use permitted load locations, inspect tools and set contained waste collection near the work without blocking exits or drainage.

**Verification:** Lead checks load distribution and waste routes against the plan.

**Reasoning:** Waste loading grows as removal progresses.

## Complete the work and hand over

### 4 Remove in controlled sections

**Hazard:** Cutting tools, protrusions and newly exposed weak areas can injure workers.

**Control:** Follow the released section sequence from protected positions. Stop at unknown deck defects, services or materials and protect new hazards before moving on.

**Verification:** Lead monitors the exposed deck and records deviations for disposition.

**Reasoning:** The existing roof investigation must be checked against discoveries.

### 5 Lower debris by the planned route

**Hazard:** Falling waste, uncontrolled chutes or overloaded containers can strike people.

**Control:** Contain waste and use the specified lowering system and controlled receiving area. Never throw debris over an edge or improvise a chute.

**Verification:** Waste lead checks the lowering setup and receiving separation before each transfer.

**Reasoning:** The waste route is part of the roof task.

### 6 Protect exposed areas and hand over

**Hazard:** Open roof sections, loose debris or weather can expose occupants and the next crew.

**Control:** Secure material, maintain fall and opening protection and provide the specified temporary weather protection. Communicate deck defects, unfinished sections and load restrictions.

**Verification:** Supervisor checks closeout and receiving-crew understanding.

**Reasoning:** End-of-shift protection must address both workers and the building below.

### Pause and reassess

- Unknown material, deck damage or concealed service appears.
- Loads, wind, rain or footing change.
- Fall protection or the waste receiving boundary fails.

## Improve the controls

**Needs improvement:** Be careful around the equipment.

**More useful:** Use permitted load locations, inspect tools and set contained waste collection near the work without blocking exits or drainage.

**Needs improvement:** Check the area before starting.

**More useful:** Supervisor confirms material investigation, roof condition and permitted loads before disturbing the system. Hold uncertain areas for the required investigation.

### Decisions that change the analysis

**Does the masonry demolition example cover this removal?**

No. It is a ground-floor partition task. Roof tear-off adds fall protection, evolving deck condition, roof load limits, material investigation and debris lowering.

**What must be recorded before this example is used on a job?**

Replace the scenario with the actual work, identify additional hazards with the crew, and record the applicable instructions, responsible people, inspection findings, unresolved actions and required authorization. A planned verification is not an inspection result.

### Training needs

- Released removal method, roof loading and unexpected-material recognition.
- Fall protection and the actual waste-lowering system.

Confirm applicable qualifications and actual training evidence for the people assigned. Related toolbox talks support discussion; they do not establish competence.

### References and adaptation

OSHA Protecting Roofing Workers

<https://www.osha.gov/sites/default/files/publications/OSHA3755.pdf>

OSHA 1926.501 Duty to have fall protection

<https://www.osha.gov/laws-regs/regulations/standardnumber/1926/1926.501>

OSHA 1926.502 Fall protection systems criteria

<https://www.osha.gov/laws-regs/regulations/standardnumber/1926/1926.502>

OSHA 1926.503 Fall protection training

<https://www.osha.gov/laws-regs/regulations/standardnumber/1926/1926.503>

OSHA 1926.300 Hand and power tools

<https://www.osha.gov/laws-regs/regulations/standardnumber/1926/1926.300>

References reviewed October 9, 2026. Use actual equipment and product instructions, project design and site requirements. This instructional example supplies no actual inspection results, signatures or work approval.