

Steep Slope Shingle Roof Tear Off JHA

Worked instructional example

Work and worksite

A roofing crew removes old shingles and underlayment from one surveyed steep-slope roof section, exposing its deck for inspection. Access, fall protection and controlled debris lowering are established before stripping. New shingles, structural deck repair and the setup of a debris chute are separately planned operations. This fictional learning example describes planned controls; it records no actual inspection or work authorization.

- Partial shingle tear-off coverage: progressive removal to deck on a steep roof; not low-slope membrane removal or new shingle installation.
- A competent preparatory survey releases the materials and existing roof condition, including suspected hazardous materials and hidden damage.
- Protected access, a suitable fall-protection system, rescue, roof-load limits, a closed area below and an accepted disposal route are in place.

Questions before work

- How will worker protection remain effective when shingles and retaining nails are removed beneath the work area?
- Which roof conditions require withdrawal rather than walking onto newly exposed decking?
- How much roofing can be opened and cleared before weather or temporary protection becomes a constraint?

Task Hazard Control

1 Release the roof section and stripping plan

Hazard: Hidden roof weakness or hazardous old materials can invalidate the removal method.

Control: Review the preparatory survey, material assessment and structural limits. Define the strip area, debris route and weather window with the responsible people; keep suspect or unstable areas closed until a revised plan is accepted.

Verification: Roof lead records the survey release, removal boundary and stop conditions before access.

Reasoning: An apparently intact shingle surface may conceal a deck that cannot support the stripping crew.

2 Establish continuous protected access

Hazard: Workers can fall during access or when a temporary support or anchor is disturbed.

Control: Verify the actual steep-roof fall-protection arrangement, anchors, access and rescue before stepping onto the roof. Protect openings and close below; maintain protection through removal and never rely on a warning line alone as the steep-roof method.

Verification: Competent person checks access and protection before work and whenever the stripping sequence changes them.

Reasoning: Removing roofing must not remove the support or secure path that the crew depends on.

3 Strip a manageable section

Hazard: Prying tools, loose shingles and exposed nails can destabilize footing or injure workers.

Control: Work in the agreed progression from protected positions with controlled stripping tools. Keep materials and nails out of the footing route, maintain separation between workers and stop at any soft deck or newly exposed opening.

Verification: Lead checks footing and the newly exposed deck as each small section is opened.

Reasoning: A manageable work face limits the amount of hidden deck risk exposed at once.

Complete the work and hand over

4 Contain and lower sharp roofing debris

Hazard: Loose debris can slide downslope, strike people or overload the roof staging point.

Control: Collect stripped roofing in the accepted restrained containers or disposal arrangement. Keep the drop zone closed and stage no more than the roof and system allow; use the accepted lowering route rather than throwing material over the edge.

Verification: Crew checks roof loading, restraint and lower-area clearance before each debris transfer.

Reasoning: Removing old roofing can concentrate its weight at a new point before it leaves the building.

5 Inspect the revealed deck and protect defects

Hazard: A bare deck may contain holes, rot and protruding fasteners that were hidden during planning.

Control: Clear authorized remnants and inspect from secure positions. Mark and protect unsound areas and openings, remove or control sharp fasteners and refer structural defects for separately approved repair; do not bridge them with loose roofing.

Verification: Roof lead records deck findings and the boundaries that remain closed to the next crew.

Reasoning: A stripped roof is an inspection result, not automatic acceptance for loading or re-roofing.

6 Secure the section and hand over

Hazard: Unprotected decking or incomplete cleanup can expose occupants and the replacement crew.

Control: Implement the accepted temporary weather protection without defeating fall controls. Clear the roof and ground routes, retain necessary barriers and record deck defects, protection and the separate release required for new roofing.

Verification: Supervisor documents the exposed section, temporary condition and next-operation handoff.

Reasoning: The removal crew must leave a controlled roof condition even if new roofing starts later.

Pause and reassess

- Stop for suspect materials, roof movement, soft decking, hidden openings or ineffective fall protection.
- Pause for unsafe weather, a closed debris route becoming accessible or excessive roof staging loads.
- Structural deck repair, chute assembly and new shingle installation require their own releases.

Improve the controls

Needs improvement: Work carefully and wear PPE.

More useful: Work in the agreed progression from protected positions with controlled stripping tools. Keep materials and nails out of the footing route, maintain separation between workers and stop at any soft deck or newly exposed opening.

Needs improvement: Check that everything is ready.

More useful: Review the preparatory survey, material assessment and structural limits. Define the strip area, debris route and weather window with the responsible people; keep suspect or unstable areas closed until a revised plan is accepted.

Decisions that change the analysis

Why is this separate from the low-slope tear-off example?

Loose shingles and sharp nails are removed on a sloping work surface while protection remains effective through changing footing and exposed deck. The published low-slope membrane tear-off expressly excludes steep roofs.

What must the crew record for actual use?

Identify the actual equipment and work boundaries, responsible people, applicable criteria, inspection findings and open actions. Resolve changes with affected crews and obtain required project authorization before work.

Training needs

- Verify steep-roof fall-protection training and demonstrate continuous access, anchor protection and the rescue arrangement.
- Practice progressive stripping, weak-deck recognition and controlled sharp-debris handling within the accepted roof-load limits.

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: tear-off and steep-roof hazards
<https://www.osha.gov/sites/default/files/publications/OSHA3755.pdf>

OSHA 1926.850 Demolition preparatory operations
<https://www.osha.gov/laws-regs/regulations/standardnumber/1926/1926.850>

OSHA 1926.501 Duty to have fall protection
<https://www.osha.gov/laws-regs/regulations/standardnumber/1926/1926.501>

OSHA 1926.25 Housekeeping
<https://www.osha.gov/laws-regs/regulations/standardnumber/1926/1926.25>

References reviewed October 9, 2026. Use actual equipment and product instructions, project design and site requirements. This original draft supplies no fabricated inspection, signature or approval.