

TOOL BOX TALKS

Roofing Shingle Tear Off

Falls from elevation are the leading cause of fatal injuries in construction. In fact, half of all work-related fatal falls in the United States occur in the construction industry. Did you know that one out of every five-workplace fatalities is a construction employee? Residential shingle tear-off exposes workers to not only fall hazards, but also nail puncture wounds, excessive heat and strains and sprains. Review the following information with employees.

WORKSAFE TIPS

FALL FACTS

- The average cost per fall injury is \$89,793.
- Falls off roofs are 3% of injuries seen by MEM
- Average cost of a fall from a roof is \$63,733.

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

- Hard hat
- Good-quality gloves
- Eye protection
- SPF-55 Protective Skin Lotion
- Steel-toed protective footwear
- Protective knee pads

RECOMMENDED CLOTHING FOR TEAR-OFF

- Jeans
- Long-sleeved, loose-fitting, light-color t-shirt
- Good-quality socks
- Light-colored hat

HOT WEATHER SAFETY

- Tear-off requires significant physical ability
- Take breaks in shade, more often in afternoon
- Drink water and avoid sugar, coffee, alcohol
- Keep a safety eye on fellow workers
- Start in cool morning and end in early afternoon

BEFORE BEGINNING TEAR-OFF

- Plan to have plenty of help
- Check work area for power lines
- Check roof for soft spots, signs of weakness
- Check for damage through the attic space
- Affix Personal Fall Arrest System anchorages
- Protect windows, sidewalks from debris
- Limit bystander access as debris is hazardous
- Spread tarps to collect small scrap and nails
- Place dumpster or scrap trailer close to house

SAFETY BEST PRACTICES

- Nail roof jacks to rafters
- Don't walk on tarps, plastic or scrap
- Cover skylights: a skylight cover must support 2X the expected load
- Cover or fix roof soft spots.
- Extend ladders 3 feet above the edge
- Tie off ladders to prevent tip or kick out
- Never work atop a wet, frosty or icy roof
- Sweep roof of shingle sand to prevent slips
- To prevent back strain, over-exertion and fatigue use a shingle tear-off shovel or ripper with serrated edge and attached fulcrum shim.
- Bend at the knees to put pressure on the ripper.
- To prevent a hand injury use a hammer stapler instead of a hand-stapler
- When picking up nails, use a broom magnet to limit instances of repetitive bending
- Never secure or tie tools off of a brick chimney. A weak, old chimney could collapse
- Remove nails in sheeting—they're trip hazards
- Minimize the amount that workers must bend over to pick up scrap
- Never handle scrap more than once.

HOUSEKEEPING

- Keep roof clear of loose shingles
- Remove nails left in roof sheeting
- Pick up scrap shingles on the ground
- Pick up nails and wood chunks on the ground.

TRAILERING WASTE SHINGLES

- Do not overload scrap shingle trailers.
- Never stand in scrap shingle trailers.
- Cover trailer with tarp before transporting.
- Don't smoke around scrap shingle trailers.



Smart, Accident-Free Environments

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