

# DEMOLITION DEBRIS

Safety Topic V6-0316

Site Safety, Housekeeping



When debris from the demolition is dropped through holes in the floor without the use of chutes, the area where the material is dropped must be enclosed with barricades at least 42 inches high and at least 6 feet back from the projected edges of the opening above.

- Warning signs of the hazard of falling material must be posted at each level.
- Floor openings used for material disposal must not be more than 25% of the total floor area.
- Material removal on the lower levels is not permitted until all demolition operations and debris handling above have stopped.

**OSHA Standard 1926.852(a)** *No material shall be dropped to any point lying outside the exterior walls of the structure unless the area is effectively protected.*

Use enclosed chutes with gates on the discharge end to drop demolition material to the ground or into debris containers.

- When operations are not in progress, the area surrounding the discharge end of a chute must be securely closed off.
- All chute openings must be protected by a substantial guardrail about 42 inches above the floor or other surface on which the workers stand to dump the material.

**OSHA Standard 1926.252(a)** *Whenever materials are dropped more than 20 feet to any exterior point of a building, an enclosed chute must be used.*

- Floors weakened or otherwise made unsafe by demolition operations must be shored to ensure they can safely carry the imposed load from the debris.
- Retaining walls that demolition debris will be piled against must be capable of supporting the potential load.

## Discussion

Image: 0002670 Steve Clark/Laborers/eLCOSH.org

***What are the unique hazards of demolition work?***

***What personal protective equipment (PPE) is required on demolition projects?***