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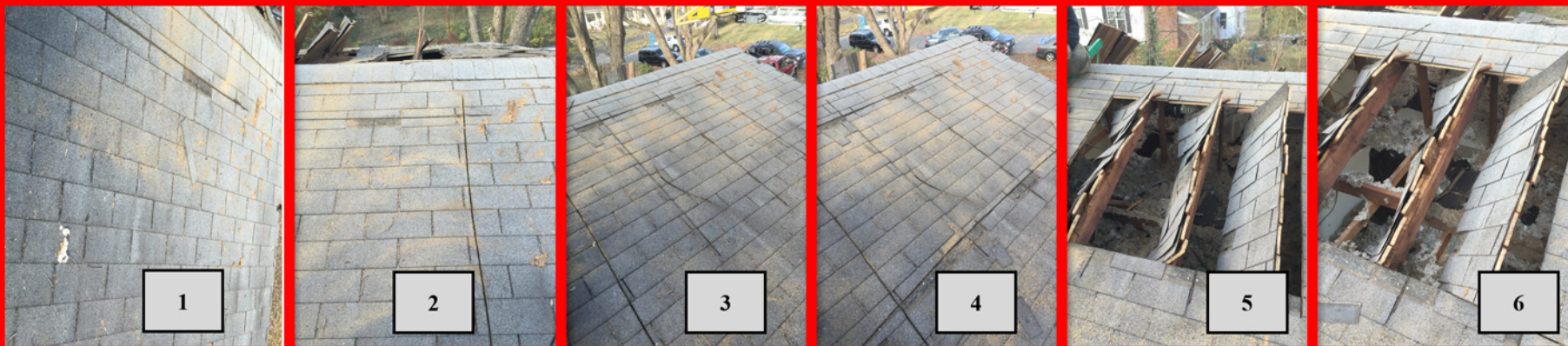
“COMBAT READY” FIREFIGHTING
FIREGROUND PROVEN TIPS, TECHNIQUES & DRILLS

Fire Engineering

The “Louver Cut”

By EVD Kyle Stephens, Baltimore City Fire Department

There are a variety of roof cuts that can be performed when opening up a dwelling vertically. This drill looks at the “Louver Cut” and some advantages to this type of cut. First, the roof decking is not completely pulled off or pushed through the dwelling where it could injure members operating underneath the cut. Second, you have the ability to louver the roof decking in either direction based on wind direction. This cut is ideal in older urban settings where there are flat roof rowhomes.



1. Make top or horizontal cut parallel with the roof peak, directly over or as high as possible to the location of the fire below. Your initial top cut will clue you into rafter location. This is important later when making all vertical cuts. **[Photo 1]**
 2. Second cut should be the vertical cut furthest from your roof ladder or aerial. Ensure all cuts are overlapped. **[Photo 2]**
 3. Taking note of the rafter location from your initial top cut, make the remaining vertical cuts in between rafters. **[Photo 3]**
 4. Final cut should be the bottom horizontal cut. **[Photo 4]**
 5. Using your hook, louver the roofing decking on each rafter. **[Photo 5]**
 6. Final step is to punch the ceiling material down creating an exhaust hole for heat, smoke, and fire below. **[Photo 6]**
- *** Louver cuts are not your go to cut on increased pitched roofs *** Louver cuts may not be the preferred cut on older 1”x 6” or 1” x 8” plank decking roofs, other types of cuts are more suited for these roof types (N cut or Teepee cut) *****