

Demolition safety

Reason	Demolition is high-risk work, with falls from height and premature collapse of structures presenting the greatest risk. Following the method statement for your work will ensure the demolition work is carried out safely, without risks to your health and safety.
Outline	This talk covers hazards on site before and during the demolition activity.



Demolition can be large- or small-scale



It is essential for operators of demolition machines to understand how to operate them safely



Signs must be clearly visible to warn of hazardous areas and activities



Demolition is dangerous – follow the rules.

Do not operate or use any plant or equipment if you do not have the appropriate authorisation, training, skills and experience to do so.

Demolition safety

Reason	Demolition is high-risk work, with falls from height and premature collapse of structures presenting the greatest risk. Following the method statement for your work will ensure the demolition work is carried out safely, without risks to your health and safety.
Outline	This talk covers hazards on site before and during the demolition activity.

Before work

1. Demolition work should only be carried out by people with the right skills, knowledge, training and experience.
2. Make sure you have been briefed and know exactly what you should be doing.
3. Make sure you follow your method statement.
4. Make sure you know where demolition plant will be operating.
5. Don't enter any exclusion zones unless you are authorised to do so.
6. Find out from your supervisor if there are any live services.
7. Find out if there are any hazardous materials in the structure (for example, acids from industrial processes, asbestos from pipe lagging or biological hazards in old hospitals). If hazardous materials are identified, ensure you are aware of the control measures to be followed.

During demolition

1. Demolition work must be planned, supervised and carried out by competent people.
2. Make sure you follow your safe system of work at all times.
3. Appropriate respiratory protective equipment (RPE) may be required in dusty conditions and hazardous atmospheres.
4. Work from correctly erected scaffold platforms or towers and hydraulic or crane-handled work baskets whilst wearing a full body harness and restraint lanyard.
5. When cutting steel, secure gas bottles, use flashback arresters, store spare bottles in compounds, take care with hoses, follow hot-works procedures and provide a means of putting out fires.
6. Be aware of the dangers of lead paints when cutting steel sections and wear appropriate RPE.
7. Erect sheeting or hoardings to protect other workers or the public, and replace any protective coverings and barriers that are damaged.
8. Stop work and clear the area if you think you have discovered asbestos.

Precautions

1. Don't overload floors with materials or plant – they may collapse unexpectedly.
2. Don't demolish walls and floors adjacent to areas where other workers or the public have access.
3. Damp down to reduce dust, and keep noise to a minimum.
4. Vehicle marshals must be provided where machines are used in areas close to or adjacent to other workers or the public.



What must you know before starting?

What must you do before entering a building?

What protective equipment should you be wearing?

What should you do to keep dust down?

Who should be supervising the demolition?



Now inform your workers of the company policy regarding safe demolition.