



Demolition Safety

What this Toolbox Talk Covers:

- ✓ The “Dos” and “Don’ts” of safely dismantling, razing, destroying or wrecking any building or structure.

Discussion Leader Duties:

- ✓ Demonstrate examples and proper safety guidelines to protect against hazards in the demolition phase of construction.

Discussion Notes:

- ✓ Discuss the outcomes of the “Dos” and “Don’ts”

- Do**
- Locate, secure and/or relocate any nearby utilities prior to beginning demolition work to prevent accidental utility damage.
 - Ensure there is a fire prevention and evacuation plan in place.
 - Wear a hard hat to protect against overhead impact or electrical hazards.
 - Have respiratory protection available as necessary (e.g., filtering facemasks for dusts like dried mud, dirt and silt).
 - Conduct demolition work from the topmost floors down.
 - Properly brace and provide lateral support for any standalone wall section that is more than one story in height.
- Don’t**
- Allow falling debris, stored materials or heavy equipment to exceed safe carrying capacity of the floor.
 - Cut or remove load-supporting members until the upper or supported loads have been removed.
 - Approach any gas leaks; if a gas leak is detected, secure spark-producing devices (engines, tools, electronic equipment).
 - Demolish retaining walls until they have been properly braced or adjoining structures or supported earth have been properly underpinned.

Discussion questions:

1. What should you do if you discover a gas leak?
2. What are some examples of Personal Protective Equipment to use during demolition?
3. What are some guidelines for dismantling retaining walls?
4. Why should you locate and secure any nearby utilities prior to beginning demolition?

Meeting note:

Employee comments/concerns: _____

Other safety issues to be addressed on the job/facility: _____

Training record:	Date: _____	Jobsite/Facility: _____	
	Trainer: _____	Title: _____	
Employee name (print)	/ (signature)	Employee name (print)	/ (signature)
_____	/	_____	/
_____	/	_____	/
_____	/	_____	/

(Continue recording signatures on a separate sheet of paper)

Employee Quiz is provided on last page. Answers are: 1. (a), 2. (a), 3. (d), 4. (c), 5. (b)

Toolbox Talks safety information provided by Texas Mutual Insurance Company.



Demolition Safety

Hazards include:

Accidents due to unknown factors make demolition work particularly dangerous and can result in serious injury or even death.

Smart Safety Rules

- Have an engineering survey that includes the condition of the structure and the possibility of an unplanned collapse prior to starting demolition.
- Identify building materials that may contain hazardous materials such as asbestos, mold or lead.
- Enclose material chutes that are at an angle greater than 45 degrees.
- Remove or secure objects (glass, structural members) that may fall while workers work under them.
- Provide and use safe walkways to reach any point without having to walk on exposed beams.



Employee Quiz

Topic: Demolition Safety

Employee Name: _____

Circle the correct answer below.

1. Material chutes should be enclosed when they're at this angle (or higher):
 - a. 45 degrees
 - b. 90 degrees
 - c. 65 degrees
 - d. 25 degrees
2. Demolition should begin at the top of the structure and work downward.
 - a. True
 - b. False
3. What are some of the devices you should secure or remove if a gas leak is detected?
 - a. Electronics
 - b. Engines
 - c. Tools
 - d. All of the above
4. What is the benefit of wearing a filtering facemask during demolition?
 - a. Protection from falling materials
 - b. Protection against sparks while welding
 - c. Respiratory protection from dusts and materials
 - d. All of the above
5. It is ok to cut or remove load-supporting members before removing the upper or supported structures.
 - a. True
 - b. False

Training record: Date: _____ Jobsite/Facility: _____
Trainer: _____ Title: _____