

SAFE WORK PRACTICE SWP-63

Revised: July 18, 2025 Demolition

PURPOSE/APPLICATION

To provide guidance for safe demolition execution. Demolition activities should be directed and/or executed by persons trained specifically in demolition and deemed competent by the site Owner/Prime Contractor.

Preparatory operations will include the overall planning of the demolition job, including the methods to be used to bring the structure down, the equipment necessary to do the job, and the measures to be taken to perform the work safely.

PPE

- CPES Minimum Requirements
- Additional requirements as identified in the Hazard Identification, Assessment and Control (HIAC) Process

TRAINING

- Equipment Specific
- **HAZARDS & CONCERNS**
- All 13 CPES Hazard Sources should be considered
- Gravity
- NoiseFire/Explosion
- MotionToxic
- Injury
- Biological
- Flying/ Falling debris



PRECAUTIONS

Planning for a demolition job is as important as actually doing the work. Therefore, all planning work should be performed by a competent person experienced in all phases of the demolition work to be performed.

DO'S

- **DO** Ensure an engineered survey of the structure to be demolished is conducted by a competent person to help understand the current condition of the framing, floors, and walls
- DO Complete checks on adjacent structure(s) or improvements when advised
- **DO** Assess the site for harmful substances such as asbestos, lead, heavy metal, potentially flammable or explosive material, NORMs, and/or toxic gases
- DO Complete Site-Specific Safety Plan(s) (SSSP) or Exposure Control Plan(s) (ECP), as required, to control the hazardous substances identified
- **DO** Complete a Pre-Job Hazard Assessment (CF-S-56)
- **DO** Complete an Emergency Response Plan (ERP)
- DO Acquire, pre-inspect, and properly utilize the protective equipment required to handle the harmful substances, conditions, and/or potential emergencies as identified by the Engineered Survey, SSSP, ECP, ERP, and/or CF-S-56
- **DO** Ensure personnel completing the work are competent for the type of work to be completed (e.g. Electricians complete electrical demolition, pipefitters complete mechanical demolition, etc.)
- **DO** Ensure a HIAC (CF-S-01) is completed prior to work onsite beginning and is supplemented with quidance within CPES's HSE Library
- **DO** Ensure reassessments are completed throughout the day to help capture changing conditions such as, but not limited to:
 - Restricted/Confined space conditions created through the demolition process,
 - Fall Protection requirements are being met,



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- Overhead risks to personnel such as unsecured walls left standing without bracing or overhead work where objects could be dropped
- Placement of demolition and/or combustible material that blocks emergency routes or equipment
- Identification of hazardous materials
- · General housekeeping
- **DO** Ensure utilities that need to remain in-service are adequately protected from demolition activities (relocation, quards/barricades, etc.)
- **DO** Ensure personnel are made aware of the location and status of in-service utilities prior to beginning demolition work
- **DO** Ensure all utilities entering structure to be demolished are cut, capped, or otherwise controlled outside the building
- **DO** Ensure glass that could endanger workers is removed prior to demolition. Remove glass in a top to bottom sequence
- **DO** Secure materials and debris against unintended movement from weather or concurrent activities
- **DO** Install signage to inform personnel of hazardous areas
- **DO** Ensure heating devices are used in accordance with manufacturer's specifications

DON'Ts

- **DON'T** Begin demolishing a structure before understanding the condition of the framing, floors, and walls as this could result in a premature collapse of the structure.
- **DON'T** Demolish or break integrity on a structure or system without knowing the contents that were, or still could be, within.
- **DON'T** Break integrity on systems you are not competent to work on (e.g., If you are not an electrician, do not complete first breaks on electrical components) **DON'T** Leave dangerous areas unbarricaded or otherwise accessible to the public
- **DON'T** Smoke outside of designated areas. Ensure safe receptacles are provided within designated smoking areas.

Pre-Work/Job Planning

- Prior to starting all demolition operations, an engineering survey of the structure must be conducted by a competent person. The purpose of this survey is to determine the condition of the framing, floors, and walls so that measures can be taken, if necessary, to prevent the premature collapse of any portion of the structure. When indicated as advisable, any adjacent structure(s) or improvements should also be similarly checked.
- Complete a pre-job site HIAC. Refer to HSEMS Section 2 Hazard Identification, Assessment and Control
- At the time of the survey an inspection of the site must also be undertaken in order to determine if any asbestos, lead, or other heavy metal or toxic, flammable or explosive materials that may be handled, disturbed or removed. Have the inspection results available at the worksite, including any drawings, plans or specifications, as appropriate, to show the locations of any hazardous substances. Ensure that any hazardous materials found are safely contained or removed.
- During the planning stage of the job, all safety equipment needs should be determined. The required number and type of respirators, lifelines, warning signs, safety nets, special face and eye protection, hearing protection, and other worker protection devices should be determined during the preparation of the engineering survey. A comprehensive plan is necessary for any confined space entry.
- If it is necessary to maintain any power, water, or other utilities during demolition, such lines shall be temporarily relocated as necessary and/or protected. The location of all overhead power sources should also be determined, as they can prove especially hazardous during any machine demolition. All workers should be informed of the location of any existing or relocated utility service.



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Utilities

All electric, gas, water, steam, sewer, and other services lines shall be shut off, capped, or otherwise
controlled, at or outside the building before demolition work is started. All energy sources need to be
verified as zero energy. In each case, any utility company which is involved should be notified in
advance, and its approval or services, if necessary, shall be obtained. Refer to COP-05 Lock Out Tag
Out.

Site Securement

- If a dangerous or unstable wall is to be left standing, it must be adequately braced.
- If glass in a building or other structure could endanger workers, it must be removed before other demolition commences. Glass removal must proceed in an orderly manner from the top to the bottom of the structure.
- Dangerous areas must be barricaded or guarded to prevent entry by workers or public. Warning signs
 must be displayed on all sides and approaches, or adequate protective canopies must be installed
 over the danger area, or adequate catch platforms or nets must be provided to stop materials from
 falling into areas accessible to workers.
- Heating devices should be situated so they are not likely to overturn and shall be installed in accordance with their listing, including clearance to combustible material or equipment. Temporary heating equipment, when utilized, should be maintained by competent personnel.
- Smoking shall be prohibited at or in the vicinity of hazardous operations or materials. Where smoking is permitted, safe receptacles shall be provided for smoking materials.
- Roadways between and around combustible storage piles should be at least 5 meters (15 feet) wide and maintained free from accumulation of rubbish, equipment, or other materials.
- When storing debris or combustible material inside a structure, such storage shall not obstruct or adversely affect the means of exit.
- Material and debris must not be allowed to accumulate on floors or on the ground outside the building or structure.
- Material and debris must be secured against unintentional movement as a result of weather conditions and/or weather activities.

Emergency Response Planning

- Prior to starting work, provisions should be made for prompt medical attention in case of serious
 injury. The nearest hospital, clinic, or physician shall be located as part of the Emergency Response
 Plan and/or Site Specific Safety Plan. The job supervisor should be provided with instructions for the
 most direct route to these facilities. Proper equipment for prompt transportation of an injured worker,
 as well as a communication system to contact any necessary ambulance service, must be available at
 the job site. The telephone numbers of the hospitals, physicians, or ambulances shall be
 conspicuously posted.
- The telephone numbers of the local police, ambulance, and fire departments should be available at each job site. This information can prove useful to the job supervisor in the event of any traffic problems, such as the movement of equipment to the job, uncontrolled fires, or other police/fire matters. The police number may also be used to report any vandalism, unlawful entry to the job site, or accidents requiring police assistance.
- A "fire plan" should be set up prior to beginning a demolition job. This plan should outline the assignments of key personnel in the event of a fire and provide an evacuation plan for workers on the site.



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- A suitable location at the job site should be designated and provided with plans, emergency information, and equipment, as needed. Access for heavy firefighting equipment should be provided on the immediate job site at the start of the job and maintained until the job is completed.
- Free access from the street to fire hydrants and to outside connections for standpipes, sprinklers, or other fire extinguishing equipment, whether permanent or temporary, should be provided and maintained at all times.
- Pedestrian walkways should not be constructed as to impede access to hydrants.
- No material or construction should interfere with access to hydrants, siamese connections, or fire extinguishing equipment.
- A temporary or permanent water supply of sufficient volume, duration, and pressure, required to properly operate the firefighting equipment, should be made available.
- Standpipes with outlets should be provided on large multistory buildings to provide for fire protection on upper levels. If the water pressure is insufficient, a pump should also be provided.
- An ample number of fully charged portable fire extinguishers should be provided throughout the operation. All motor driven mobile equipment should be equipped with an approved fire extinguisher.
- An alarm system, e.g., telephone system, siren, two-radio, etc., shall be established in such a way that employees on the site and the local fire department can be alerted in case of an emergency.

The following should be considered in all fire prevention planning:

- All potential sources of ignition should be evaluated and the necessary corrective measures taken.
- Electrical wiring and equipment for providing light, heat, or power should be installed by a competent person and inspected regularly.
- Equipment powered by an internal combustion engine should be located so that the exhausts discharge well away from combustible materials and away from workers.
- When the exhausts are piped outside the building, a clearance of at least six inches should be maintained between such piping and combustible material.
- All internal combustion equipment should be shut down prior to refueling. Fuel for this equipment should be stored in a safe location.
- Sufficient firefighting equipment should be located near any flammable or combustible liquid storage area.
- Only approved containers and portable tanks should be used for the storage and handling of flammable and combustible liquids.

Hazardous Materials

• If hazardous materials are discovered during demolition work that were not identified in the initial survey, all work must cease until such materials are contained or removed.



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REFERENCES / ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- HSEMS Section 2 Hazard Identification, Assessment, and Control
- HSEMS Section 6 PPE
- CPES ERP Template
- SDS Binders / CHAMPs
- COP 03 Confined Space Entry & Rescue
- COP-05 Lock Out Tag Out
- COP 06 Fall Protection
- SWP 03 Breaking System Integrity
- SWP 05 Fire Extinguishers
- SWP 16 Asbestos
- SWP 17 Chemical, Biological Hazards and Harmful Substances
- SWP 18 Tools, Equipment, Machinery
- SWP 19 Housekeeping
- SWP 31 Fueling
- SWP 58 Fire and Explosion
- SWP 67 Lead
- SWP 73 NORM
- SWP 74 Wrench Use
- SWP 85 Dropped Object Hazard Management

REGULATIONS

Alberta OHS Code

Part 20 - Construction, Excavation and Demolition

British Columbia OHS Regulation

• Part 20: Construction, Excavation and Demolition

Saskatchewan OHS Regulation

Part 27 Demolition Work

Manitoba OHS Regulation

• Part 33 Demolition Work

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