

Utility Isolation Before Demolition

TRADE: DEMOLITION & ABATEMENT

LEADER GUIDE: 8-12 MINUTES

USE WHAT FITS TODAY

LEADER NOTE

Do not read this sheet word-for-word. Pick the sections that match today's task, point to the actual equipment/work area, and get the crew to answer the questions out loud.

WHY THIS MATTERS

Before work starts, use this Utility Isolation Before Demolition talk to cover energized electrical, gas, water and mechanical services. Point out the equipment, work zone and controls the crew will rely on today. Demolition removes the very systems that normally keep a building stable and predictable. Hidden utilities, changing load paths, falling material and debris can turn a routine removal into a collapse, struck-by or exposure event.

A SCENARIO TO DISCUSS

Partway through Utility Isolation Before Demolition, the remaining structure or temporary support looks or sounds different after a section is removed. What is the stop-work action before another cut or removal?

BEFORE WORK STARTS

- Review the engineering survey/work sequence and identify structural, utility and hazardous-material assumptions.
- Verify utility isolation and establish debris/falling-object exclusion zones.
- Plan stable access and debris removal so changing conditions do not trap the crew.
- Identify every possible electrical source and keep unqualified workers outside the electrical hazard area.
- Inspect cords, connectors, tools and temporary power components before use; remove damaged equipment from service.

SAFE WORK SEQUENCE / CONTROLS

- Identify every possible electrical source and keep unqualified workers outside the electrical hazard area.
- Inspect cords, connectors, tools and temporary power components before use; remove damaged equipment from service.
- De-energize and verify whenever the task requires it instead of relying on a switch position or assumption.
- Keep electrical equipment dry, maintain required clearances and use GFCI/grounding protection where applicable.

QUESTIONS THAT SHOULD CHANGE THE JOB

1. What part of the structure/material could behave differently than expected when we remove the next piece?
2. Which utilities or energy sources have been isolated, and how was that isolation verified before demolition reaches them?
3. Where can debris, material, or an unsupported component fall, roll, swing, or hang up, and who must be outside that zone?

COMMON FAILURE POINTS

- Removing a component that is carrying load or bracing something the crew did not recognize.
- Creating an uncontrolled debris/falling-object path.
- Encountering utilities or suspect hazardous material and continuing instead of stopping.

STOP AND RESET IF...

- The structure/material differs from the survey or sequence, or unexpected movement/cracking occurs.
- Utilities have not been isolated/verified or suspect hazardous material is encountered.
- Debris, falling-object zones or access routes cannot be controlled as planned.

4. What unexpected movement, crack, material, void, or connection means we stop the sequence and get the condition evaluated?
5. What is the stop-work action before another cut or removal?

MAKE IT REAL ON THE JOB

Point out what is being removed, what supports it, where debris will go and what must stay isolated.

BEFORE YOU RELEASE THE CREW

Before the crew starts, everyone should be able to explain the hazard, point to the control being used today, and name the condition that would make the work stop.

ATTENDANCE & SIGN-OFF

Utility Isolation Before Demolition

Project / Job:		Date:	
Talk leader:		Location:	

CREW ACKNOWLEDGMENT

By signing, attendees confirm they participated in this toolbox talk and had the opportunity to raise job-specific questions. Signatures do not replace required training, qualifications, permits or certifications.

#	Name	Company / Trade	Signature
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			
7			
8			
9			
10			

QUESTIONS / CONDITIONS / CORRECTIVE ACTIONS

END-OF-TALK CHECK

☐ Crew can point to the main hazard.	☐ Critical control is in place and usable.
☐ The responsible person/check is clear.	☐ Stop/re-brief conditions were discussed.