

Demolition JHA Example

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Learning and planning resource. Adapt with the people doing the work, verify actual controls and follow required authorization. This document supplies no completed field inspections, signatures or work approval.

Work and worksite

A fictional renovation crew plans to remove a short interior masonry partition at ground level in an unoccupied work bay. The teaching assumption is that it is intended to be non-load-bearing, but that assumption must be confirmed through the demolition engineering survey before work. Adjacent rooms remain outside the work boundary. The example covers controlled removal using selected hand and power tools, followed by debris handling. It excludes load-bearing alterations, whole-building collapse, explosives, roof removal and hazardous-material abatement. It is a completed planning example, not evidence that a real structure has been surveyed or released.

- Identify the precise wall, connected elements, nearby spaces and removal limit on the work plan; appearance is not proof of structural function.
- Obtain written evidence of the competent person's engineering survey, including relevant adjacent structures and possible unplanned collapse.
- Resolve utilities and suspect building materials before disturbance. Existing coatings, insulation or concealed services cannot be cleared by a visual guess.
- Define debris routes, temporary storage, dust containment, access equipment and emergency access without relying on occupied adjacent areas.

Actual project records needed: Location, crew and responsible people; equipment models and instructions; permits/releases; emergency arrangements; actual checks and approvals.

Task | Hazard | Control | Verification

Confirm the removal scope and structural condition

Hazard: Removing an apparently minor partition releases a supported element or destabilizes damaged construction.

Control: The competent person performs the required engineering survey before demolition. The supervisor translates its findings into a work sequence and required support; unresolved structural questions go to a suitably qualified designer.

Verification: Confirm written survey evidence covers the actual wall and adjacent exposures, and that required temporary support is addressed.

Reasoning: The useful JHA begins with what is known about the structure, not the tool selected to break it.

Resolve services and hazardous materials

Hazard: Tools strike energized services or disturb lead, asbestos or other hazardous substances.

Control: Authorized personnel shut off, cap or otherwise control affected services and protect necessary remaining services. The employer completes the relevant material and exposure evaluations and arranges required controls or separate specialist work before disturbance.

Verification: Match service controls and survey information to the removal boundary; mark any area still on hold.

Reasoning: A general demolition checklist cannot establish whether this coating or concealed pipe is safe to disturb.

Establish the work and debris zones

Hazard: A bystander enters the drop area, or debris blocks escape and emergency access.

Control: The foreman establishes barriers based on the expected debris and tool movement, closes conflicting routes and sets a contained waste route. Keep adjacent occupants outside the exposure area; do not select a fixed distance without assessing the job.

Verification: Walk both sides of the partition and the waste route; confirm signs and barriers direct people to a usable alternative.

Reasoning: The wall can expose people on its far side who are invisible to the person removing it.

Set up tools, access and dust controls

Hazard: Masonry dust, noise, flying fragments or unstable access injure workers during removal.

Control: The supervisor selects tools and a stable work platform for the sequence. Determine the applicable silica-control approach for each task; provide required dust controls and respiratory measures, plus task-appropriate eye, face, hearing and hand protection.

Verification: Inspect tool guards and extraction or water systems; confirm the actual method matches the exposure-control plan.

Reasoning: A disposable dust mask offered on request does not establish an effective silica or respiratory-protection program.

Remove the partition in the planned sequence

Hazard: An uncontrolled section falls, a tool catches, or exposed sharp material injures the worker.

Control: The foreman directs the assessed sequence using manageable sections and stable work positions. Keep people clear of falling material and do not undermine a standing section or cut an unidentified support. Pause if the structure differs from the survey.

Verification: Recheck exposed connections and remaining stability as work progresses; confirm debris is not building up beneath the work position.

Reasoning: Opening the first section can reveal information that was unavailable when the JHA was written.

Remove waste and leave a stable boundary

Hazard: Heavy sharp debris causes handling injuries, dust is re-suspended, or an unsupported remnant is left for the next trade.

Control: Use suitable containers and handling aids, separate sharp waste and avoid overloading floors or carts. Apply the assessed silica housekeeping method. The supervisor checks remaining edges, services, supports and barriers before handover.

Verification: Verify the debris route is clear and unfinished sections are stable and identified; record issues needing follow-up.

Reasoning: Finishing the removal does not automatically make the next person's workspace safe.

Pause and reassess

- Stop for new cracking, movement, unexpected loading, missing support or a concealed structural connection; isolate the area and reassess.
- Hold work when an unidentified service or suspect material appears. Do not broaden the removal boundary until the relevant evaluation is complete.
- Pause if dust controls fail, fragments escape the barrier, occupants enter the exposure area or the planned waste route becomes unavailable.

Correct the condition, revise the analysis, communicate the change and obtain required authorization before restarting.

Improve the control

Needs improvement: Non-load-bearing wall: no survey needed.

More useful: Obtain the required engineering survey for the demolition scope and resolve how the wall and connected construction remain stable during removal.

Needs improvement: Keep people 10 feet away and use dust masks.

More useful: Set the exclusion area from the actual debris exposure and choose verified dust and respiratory controls for the specific material and tool.

Decisions that change the analysis

The first opening reveals an unfamiliar steel member. Continue around it?

Stop and preserve the area for reassessment. Identify the member and revise the sequence before disturbing it or nearby supports.

The dust collector stops but only one section remains. Finish?

Pause the dust-producing work, correct the control and verify the planned exposure-control method before resuming.

References and adaptation

OSHA 1926.850 — Demolition preparatory operations

<https://www.osha.gov/laws-regs/regulations/standardnumber/1926/1926.850>

OSHA interpretation — Demolition rules and interior non-load-bearing partitions

<https://www.osha.gov/laws-regs/standardinterpretations/1994-01-27-0>

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OSHA 1926.1153 — Respirable crystalline silica

<https://www.osha.gov/laws-regs/regulations/standardnumber/1926/1926.1153>

OSHA 1926.62 — Lead in construction

<https://www.osha.gov/laws-regs/regulations/standardnumber/1926/1926.62>

OSHA 1926.1101 — Asbestos in construction

<https://www.osha.gov/laws-regs/regulations/standardnumber/1926/1926.1101>

This original walkthrough was informed by review of uploaded examples, then rewritten for the stated fictional scenario using current primary references. It does not reproduce a source document or its approval record.

Walkthrough and draft builder: <https://www.toddjeromejenkins.com/jha-jsa-examples/demolition-jha>