

Shored Load-Bearing Wood Wall Removal JHA

Worked instructional example

Work and worksite

A framing alteration crew will remove one surveyed ground-floor load-bearing wood stud-wall segment in an unoccupied building bay after engineer-designed temporary support and load isolation have been installed and accepted. The released sequence controls individual member removal and retained building stability; the crew leaves the shores for a separate permanent-framing operation. This fictional learning example describes planned controls; it records no actual inspection or work authorization.

- The written engineering survey and removal design identify the affected loads, bracing function, services, material hazards, retained members and the removal boundary.
- Temporary support acceptance precedes any wall disturbance, with designated monitoring, protected routes and agreed stop conditions throughout the alteration.
- Partial framing-alteration coverage: shore erection, new beam installation, whole-frame demolition, floor-joint replacement and hazardous-material abatement are excluded.

Questions before work

- Which vertical and lateral functions does the surveyed wall perform, and what supports each during removal?
- Who accepts the installed support and monitors movement before the first connection is released?
- How will controlled section handling leave stable retained edges and an intelligible handover?

Task Hazard Control

1 Confirm the surveyed wall boundary

Hazard: An apparently simple stud wall may carry floor, roof or lateral loads not visible from its face.

Control: Alteration lead compares the written survey and issued removal plan with the actual wall and adjacent framing. Identify retained members and all affected support functions. Resolve services and hazardous materials through authorized work before disturbance; hold unidentified connections or a boundary that differs from the survey.

Verification: Lead checks survey applicability, marked limits and unresolved structural or material findings.

Reasoning: The removal boundary must reflect the wall's functions rather than its appearance.

2 Accept support and work separation

Hazard: A missing load transfer or interference with shores can cause collapse as wall connections are released.

Control: Obtain the designated acceptance of installed temporary supports, load isolation and required lateral restraint before cutting starts. Establish protected access, an exclusion around removal and an agreed monitoring/stop arrangement. Keep other trades and stock away from the support system; do not adjust it under this analysis.

Verification: Responsible lead checks support acceptance, monitoring points and the controlled work boundary.

Reasoning: Completed shore erection and permission to alter the wall are separate decisions.

3 Expose the specified connections

Hazard: Hidden ties, nails or remaining finishes can move unexpectedly or create harmful dust during preparation.

Control: Remove only released local coverings under the assessed material and exposure controls, using stable access and inspected tools. Expose the plan's connections in its sequence without severing them early. Maintain support, retain escape space and collect sharp finish waste as it is generated.

Verification: Lead compares exposed connections with the removal detail before member release.

Reasoning: Opening the wall can reveal loads or attachments the initial survey could not see.

Complete the work and hand over

4 Restrain and release individual members

Hazard: A stud or plate section can spring, drop or trap hands when its final connection is cut.

Control: Follow the issued order and section limits with the specified restraint or handling aid in place before each release. Use the selected tool's permitted cutting arrangement for identified fasteners and stock. Keep hands and people outside closing or falling paths; never pull a whole panel down to accelerate removal.

Verification: Removal lead checks restraint and the next connection against the current sequence.

Reasoning: Load isolation does not eliminate the weight or stored response of the removed piece.

5 Clear sections and verify retained framing

Hazard: Accumulated debris can overload access, while an unrecognized remnant can destabilize the retained building.

Control: Move released sections onto planned supports or waste containers using manageable loads and suitable aids. Do not stack against shores or undermine a retained edge. Check each exposed stage and stop for displacement, unexpected bearing, split framing or a connection outside the design before proceeding.

Verification: Lead records stage findings and confirms retained edges, support condition and clear routes.

Reasoning: The remaining structure needs review as connections become visible and loads change.

6 Hand over the supported opening

Hazard: A later crew may remove shores or load an opening whose permanent load path is incomplete.

Control: Leave all required temporary support and access boundaries intact, contain projecting fasteners and remove waste through the released route. Transfer the actual removal limits, monitoring findings and outstanding work to the permanent-framing lead. New framing, loading changes and support removal require their own designated releases.

Verification: Receiving lead confirms the supported condition and continuing loading and access restrictions.

Reasoning: Removal completion is not acceptance of a finished structural opening.

Pause and reassess

- Support acceptance, load isolation, monitoring or the written removal sequence is missing or no longer applicable.
- Unexpected ties, bearing, decay, services, material hazards or any movement of the supported structure appears.
- The request changes to a larger wall, new beam erection, support adjustment, occupation or shore removal.

Improve the controls

Needs improvement: Put props nearby before cutting the wall.

More useful: Obtain documented acceptance of the design's installed supports and load-isolation stage before disturbing any load-bearing wall connection.

Needs improvement: Pull the remaining studs down as one piece.

More useful: Restrain each designated member or section before releasing its final connection, and follow the issued order while reviewing retained stability at each exposed stage.

Decisions that change the analysis

Can the crew remove the shores after the wall is gone?

No. This example ends with a supported opening awaiting permanent framing. The designer's permanent load path, completion checks and separately accepted load-transfer/removal sequence determine when support can change.

What must the crew record for actual use?

Record the actual work boundary, equipment and materials, responsible people, applicable criteria, control checks and unresolved actions. Keep changed conditions on hold, communicate restrictions to affected crews and obtain the required project authorization before work.

Training needs

- The actual survey, engineered removal sequence, temporary-support hold points and response to unexpected movement or construction.
- Selected demolition-tool operation, concealed-fastener awareness, section handling and assessed dust, noise and sharp-waste controls.

Confirm applicable qualifications and actual training evidence for the people assigned. Related toolbox talks support discussion; they do not establish competence.

References and adaptation

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

OSHA 1926.854 Removal of walls and sections
<https://www.osha.gov/laws-regs/regulations/standardnumber/1926/1926.854>

OSHA 1926.300 Hand and power tools
<https://www.osha.gov/laws-regs/regulations/standardnumber/1926/1926.300>

References reviewed October 9, 2026. Use actual equipment and product instructions, project design and site requirements. This original draft supplies no fabricated inspection, signature or approval.