

Job-Site Review: Does the Place Match the Plan?

Todd Jerome Jenkins | v1.0 | Reviewed October 9, 2026 | Discussion + field checks

Why this matters

The work package can be correct while the work location has changed. A nearby crew, blocked route or different equipment position may change the exposure. Before starting, compare the actual place with the plan. Look from safe positions and ask about conditions you cannot confirm; a clear-looking area is not proof that every hazard is controlled.

Objective: Identify a mismatch between the planned and actual work location, then verify its resolution before affected work begins.

Key hazards or failure points

Wrong work location or equipment; changed access; adjacent work above or beside the crew; unexpected materials; missing protection; invisible exposure mistaken for an absence of hazards.

Practical controls

- Confirm the work location and equipment identity against the current assignment. Use approved access and remain outside restricted areas while reviewing the surroundings.
- Compare the planned work with access, escape routes, staging, nearby activities and existing safeguards. Include people working beyond the immediate crew who could be affected.
- Report mismatches with a precise location and description. Have the designated leader coordinate changes and required specialist review; do not move a barrier or alter equipment to make the plan fit.

Verify It in the Field

From a safe position, trace the intended work area and access against the site plan. Record what was observed, where and when. Identify any portion that could not be inspected safely and keep its status unresolved.

Check adjacent-work arrangements with the responsible crews. Compare their planned timing, boundaries and shared routes. Obtain confirmation of the agreed arrangement; an empty area now does not establish conditions for the whole task.

For each mismatch, identify the controlling requirement and designated verifier. After correction, confirm the actual finding through the required safe inspection or specialist check. Visual review cannot establish atmospheric safety, electrical isolation or hidden structural capacity.

Stop and reassess

Hold affected work for an unknown location, unexpected activity, blocked safe access or protection that is missing or unverified. Maintain a safe position and contact the leader. Resume through the site's process after resolution and rebriefing. Revisit the area when a change, break or interruption could invalidate the review.

Ask the crew

1. What does this location show that the plan does not?
2. Who else can change our exposure during the task?
3. Which condition needs a specialist check rather than a look?

Use the task plan and required specialist decisions before exposure.

Sources: DOE-HDBK-1028-2009, Vol. 2, pp. 8–9; OSHA Hazard Identification and Assessment.

Free next step: [JHA/JSA planning & field-verification worksheet](#)

Expanded guidance and separate forms: toddjeromejenkins.com/toolbox-talks/job-site-review-place-matches-plan

Based on DOE-HDBK-1028-2009, Vol. 2 (June 2009). No claim to authorship or copyright ownership of original U.S. Government work. Todd Jerome Jenkins adaptation; no government endorsement implied.