

Site-Specific Safety Plan: Check the Interfaces Today

Todd Jerome Jenkins | v1.0 | Reviewed October 6, 2026 | Discussion + field checks

Why this matters

A site plan can describe the project while missing what changed this morning. The crew needs to know how its task meets nearby work, shared access and other employers' controls. Verify the handoffs at the work location.

Objective: Match today's work to the current plan and confirm who owns each shared control.

Key hazards or failure points

Old layout or revision; conflicting work sequences; two crews assuming the other owns a barrier; changed access; unbriefed workers; inconsistent emergency instructions.

Practical controls

- Locate the applicable site plan and use it with the task JHA/JSA, permits and employer procedures. Identify the actual location, sequence and other activities that can affect the work.
- Affected employer representatives resolve shared-control ownership before starting. Name who installs, checks, maintains and releases each important protection and who coordinates a change.
- Communicate revised arrangements to every affected crew, including temporary workers and late arrivals. Keep emergency and reporting contacts current. Obtain required technical decisions and approvals before exposure.

Verify It in the Field

Take the current plan to a safe observation point. Compare access, boundaries and nearby work with actual conditions. Record mismatches for authorized resolution; do not mark the plan current simply because its date is recent.

Ask both affected crews who owns a shared control throughout the task. Compare the answers. Resolve conflicting assumptions about barriers, isolations, access or release before work proceeds.

Trace one change to the workers it affects. Ask them to explain the revised sequence, protection and stop trigger. A distribution list or signature is not evidence that the change was understood. Record the agreement and remaining limits.

Stop and reassess

Hold affected work for conflicting plans, an unowned required control or an unbriefed affected crew. Reassess changed layout, sequence or occupancy. Do not proceed without a required approval, assessment or usable emergency arrangement.

Ask the crew

1. Which other crew can change our exposure today?
2. Who owns this shared control from installation to release?
3. What changed since the plan was issued?

Before work: match the plan, the place and the people.

Sources: OSHA contractor coordination and hazard-control guidance; 1910.38 where applicable.

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

Expanded guidance, references, supervisor check and attendance record accompany this talk.