



Maine Chapter

Company \_\_\_\_\_ Job Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Weekly Tool Box Talk: **DEMOLITION**

Demolition of buildings is probably the most dangerous procedure in construction. Here's a sample, direct from the OSHA Standards book:

*"Prior to permitting employees to start demolition operations, an engineering survey shall be made, by a competent person, of the structure to determine the condition of the framing, floors, and walls, and possibility of unplanned collapse of any portions of the structure. Any adjacent structure where employees may be exposed shall also be similarly checked. The employer shall have in writing evidence that such a survey has been performed."*

- All electric, gas, water, steam, etc. must be shut off, capped, or in some fashion controlled outside the building line before demolition work is started.
- If any type of hazardous chemicals, gases, explosives, flammable materials, etc., have been used in any pipes, tanks, or other equipment on the property, testing and purging must be performed before demolition is started.
- Where a hazard exists to workers falling through wall openings, the opening must be protected with horizontal guardrails at the 42" height, and the 21" height.
- When debris is dropped through floor openings (holes) without the use of chutes, the area onto which the material is dropped must be completely enclosed with barricades (guardrails at the 42" height), and not less than six feet back from the projected edge of the opening above.
- Signs, warning of hazards of falling materials, must be prepared at each level.
- Demolition of exterior walls and floor construction shall begin at the top of the structure and proceed downward.
- Workers' entrance to multistory structures being demolished must be completely protected by sidewalk sheds or canopies, providing protection from the face of the building for a minimum of eight feet.
- All material chutes that are an angle of more than 45° from the horizontal shall be entirely enclosed. A substantial gate must be installed in each chute at the "discharge" end. A "competent" person must be assigned to control the operation of the gate, and the backing and loading of trucks.
- Employees must not work on the top of a wall when weather conditions constitute a hazard (i.e., high winds, heavy rains, snow, etc.).

**Demolition is a highly-specialized phase of construction. It's not for those who don't have a high appreciation of dangers surrounding everyone on this type of site.**

Safety Recommendations: \_\_\_\_\_

Job Specific Topics: \_\_\_\_\_

M.S.D.S. Reviewed: \_\_\_\_\_

Attended By: \_\_\_\_\_

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