

## **BUILDING DEMOLITION**

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## INTRODUCTION

This handbook is an inspector's aid. It was written by two inspectors to bring together all of the mostoften-needed information involved in their work.

Much care has been taken to detail each phase of construction, with particular attention to the requirements and limitations of specifications. All applicable specification interpretations in <u>Instructions to Resident</u> <u>Engineers</u> have been included.

The beginning inspector should look to the handbook as a reference for standards of good practice. The <u>Standard Specifications and Special Provisions</u> should not, however, be overlooked as the basic sources of information on requirements and restrictions concerning workmanship and materials.

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# Demolition

Demolition is the removal of manmade structures, such as houses, garages, outbuildings, foundations, sidewalks, wells, cisterns, and septic tanks from areas to be used for highway construction. Sometimes removal of trees is also included. Street sidewalks are normally not removed until road work begins.

1

In most cases, the area scheduled for demolition appears the same as the surrounding neighborhood. Occasionally buildings of value are removed and all that remains for the demolition contractor is removal of foundations and sidewalks.

Whether or not a building can legally be moved is usually decided by the city or county building inspector. Highway Commission personnel involved in demolition work should become familiar with local codes and requirements.

#### **Contract and Proposal**

These documents give the inspector information pertaining to both the area of demolition and the requirements of the Iowa State Highway Commission. Contracts are awarded on the basis of the sum of the total bid on each item in the proposal. Each item or parcel is listed separately on the contract, showing item number, parcel number, location of parcel, and the amount for removal of each item. Other information useful for the inspector's records and diary also appears in the contract.

#### **Record Book and Diary**

A field record book and diary must be prepared before work begins in the field. These books are used to record all daily activities performed by the project contractor.

The diary should be started on the first day the contractor works or the first day of the contract period, whichever comes first. Explain why the contractor did not start on the contract starting date, if the reason is known. This comes in handy later if a construction period report is required. The diary may be started before

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5	Parcel 941, 306 A Ave. NW					350.00
6	Parcel 942, 308 A Ave. NW					400.00
7	Parcel 942, 308 A Ave. NW					150.00
8	Parcel 942, 308 A Ave. NW					125.00
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the contract period begins in order to document preparatory steps, such as rodent inspection.

The record book helps maintain a weekly progress report on work being done. Because demolition is a relatively new operation in the construction department, inspectors may observe possible means of improving record book set-ups. Diaries should therefore be kept on an individual basis.

Each individual item and parcel should be listed on separate sheets along with all information pertaining to the respective item or parcel. This forms a record of the project's progress from the beginning of the job to the completion. This system fulfills all demolition project record requirements.

Documenting all work in the diary as well as noting it in the record book is essential. Such things as locations of utilities, plugging sewers, and extermination (if required) must be included in both volumes.

#### Plans

Plans must be on the job at all times. Becoming familiar with the plans helps determine the locations of all involved parcels. General notes pertaining to the projects are also helpful. Plans can be obtained from the resident engineer. Parcels to be demolished should be shaded in. Mark on the plans (in color) the locations of water cutoffs, sanitary sewer cutoffs, and any other pertinent information prior to the beginning of work. This helps prepare as-built plans upon completion of the project.

Plans usually state the estimated date of possession of the structures. These dates should be checked through the resident engineer to verify that the dates are final. If structures are not available for demolition, the contractor should be informed; such matters influence his work schedule.

#### **Rodent Extermination**

This is required by the Special Provisions. To facilitate progress of the work, an inspection should be

APPLICATION	FOR WRECKING PERMIT
TO: BUILDING SAFETY DEPARTN	TENT PERMIT No
CITY OF CEDAR RAPIDS. 10V	WA Date
	permit to wreck the
	at
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Owner	
Wr'k'g Contr.	Addr
FEE Signature/App	licant
This application and any permit that may l the State of Iowa and all ordinances of the same.	be granted in response thereto are subject to all laws of City of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, that may have bearing on
Date Appr'vo	1
CC: Applicant, Eog'g. Son-10/67 S	ee back of sheet for CONDITIONS OF PERMIT

CONDITIONS for issuance of PERMIT: (Bond, Street Occupancy Permit, Fences,

#### State and the second state of the

The Owner or his Representative Shall:

 Notify all utility companies and assume the responsibility for proper disconnections, inclusing temoval of electrical hazards, capping of sewers, and termination of gas, electrical and water lines.

2. Fill in excavations, cisterns, pits and other depressions to grade.

Barricades, Protective Canopies, Walkways, etc): \_\_\_\_\_

3. Clean up weekly; accomplish prompt and thorough final clean-up.

made approximately one week prior to the beginning of demolition work. This requires the inspector and a representative of the contractor to contact the city or county health department, depending upon the job location. An official health department representative should accompany the inspector and the contractor to examine each individual parcel on the contract. The health department representative then decides whether or not a parcel needs placement of poison for rodents, or a house needs fumigation for roaches.

#### **Wrecking Permits**

The contractor may be obligated to obtain wrecking permits for each separate structure. These permits can be obtained from the city or county building department, depending upon the job location. Cities have different requirements. The cost of obtaining a wrecking permit normally falls to the contractor. The wrecking permit number and the date of issuance must be recorded in the inspector's record book. Wrecking permits must be posted by the contractor prior to beginning work. They should be visible to the public, and they must not become lost or destroyed before the parcel is completely demolished and all debris hauled away.

Each building department, depending on the city or town, has codes stating how a building should be demolished and what barricades are necessary for the protection of pedestrian and automobile traffic. In general, these codes are established for the protection of everyone involved in the area of the demolition work. The contractor and the inspector should both be familiar with these codes and follow them.

#### Utilities

Utilities are such things as sanitary sewers, storm sewers, water lines, telephone lines, gas lines, and power lines. Utility company officials should be invited to a preconstruction conference with the resident engineer and the contractor to discuss the contractor's schedule and resolve potential problems. The utility companies should be notified in advance of the time the contractor starts work. They require ample time to locate and disconnect their services. All utility cutoffs should be coordinated with the contractor so his work can progress steadily. By the same token, the contractor should arrange his work to cooperate with the utility companies.

#### Water Lines

Water cutoff locations are usually determined by an official of the city water works department. Most cutoffs are made at the curb cock shut-off valve either on the lead side (side toward the street) or just behind the shut-off valve (side toward the residence). The lead pipe side is bent and clamped to prevent leaks. The excavation should be left open for a short period of time to determine if leaks appear. The pipe may be threaded and tapped off with a plug when service is cut off behind the shut-off valve (side toward the residence).

In some instances, the water department may require that the water be cut off at the main; usually this will require excavation in the traveled way. If the main is abandoned at the time of road construction, cutoff at the main may not be required at the time of demolition. This should be discussed with the city water department.

The Highway Commission pays for these water cutoffs on some projects. The inspector should be aware of who pays for the cutoffs. Requirements differ from town to town.

The contractor should mark all water shut-off valves, keeping them from being disturbed by the contractor's equipment. Water cutoffs should be completely disconnected and plugged before the structure is demolished. Otherwise, the water line may be pulled completely out of the main, causing extensive damage and water loss. All cutoffs should be located, referenced, and recorded for future use. The ties should be recorded on as-built plans. This information becomes helpful when the proposed roadway is constructed.

### Sanitary Lines

The contractor must cut off and seal all sanitary lines leading from structures to be removed. These lines are located near the structure and cut off. The broken open end still leading to the main line is then cleaned out and sealed with a mortar mix. An 8-inch mortar plug is usually the minimum size required. The inspector should concurrently locate and reference the cut and plugged end with distances from the main line. The main line is usually found in an alley. After referencing is completed, the excavation may be backfilled.

#### **Storm Sewers**

Storm sewers are normally not disturbed. Most are located in the traveled way, and can be removed at a later date if no longer in service. If they are in the way, however, storm sewers should be handled in the same manner as sanitary sewers.

Water lines must be properly capped to prevent contamination of the water supply. Lines to sewers must be plugged to prevent foreign objects and rodents from entering the sewer system.

### **Gas Lines**

Gas line cutoffs are usually handled by the gas company. The contractor should contact the gas company and inform them of the demolition work.

The electrical company should be informed by the contractor of the location and type of work to be done and requested to remove their lines from the structures, For safety reasons, it is important that power lines be removed from structures.

Electrical utility companies usually remove all meter boxes when doing a cut off. The inspector should make a second check with a representative of the electrical utility to ensure that all electrical power has been taken out. The company usually keeps a check list of each structure.

#### **Telephone Lines**

The telephone company should also be informed of the location and type of work taking place in the demolition area. The inspector can request that they remove lines attached to structures involved in the contract. Check if any telephones have been left behind. The telephone company may want to retrieve them.

Payment responsibility for disconnection of the various utilities is outlined in the specifications, special provisions, and/or plans for a particular project. If any questions arise concerning this or other matters pertaining to the project, contact the resident engineer.

#### Records

All information on utilities must be recorded in the field record book. The sample set-up serves **a**s both a complete record of demolition and as a check list.

#### Jobsite Procedure

When the contractor is prepared to start demolition of structures the inspector should be assured that

- 1) All utilities have been cut off.
- The wrecking permits are placed in a manner complying with local requirements.
- The contractor has all fences or barricades required by city building codes in place.

There is no set pattern for the contractor to follow in demolishing a structure. The inspector should be primarily concerned

- With getting the structure torn down and all debris removed in a safe manner.
- That the contractor does not damage adjoining property not in the demolition contract. (Liability insurance is covered in the specifications.)

All debris should be removed to leave the site in a clean condition prior to backfilling excavation areas. Someone may return in the future to excavate for a new structure; any rubble left behind by demolition may then cause construction problems.

Trees must also be removed. Normally, only trees interfering with demolition work should be removed. Remaining trees are removed under subsequent grading contracts. The resident engineer (or the plans) may specify removal of dead or diseased trees in special cases.

It is the contractor's responsibility to acquire an area satisfactory to the city and to the Highway Commission for disposal of debris and rubbish from the demolition site. He must backfill excavations within two weeks, or fence open excavations with snow fence. Suitable material must be obtained for backfilling. Some backfill areas require compaction with a sheepsfoot roller. These areas are designated on the plans under "general notes". Backfill must be placed in lifts and compacted as shown on applicable plans and specifications for the particular project.

The area backfilled should be bladed relatively smooth and blended with the adjacent terrain and elevation. Water Pondage should be eliminated. Extra compaction is needed because structures may be located in these areas at a later date. All installation, maintenance, and removal costs of fences and barricades erected to keep the site from becoming a public hazard are incidental to other items on the contract.

The contractor must take care to control air pollution, such as dust. He should wet down masonry thoroughly, providing water and the necessary equipment.

#### Salvage

The demolition (prime) contractor may sublet a portion of the job to a salvage subcontractor prior to demolition. Certain items are then removed for resale to the public. The subcontractor is required to operate under conditions established in the original contract. An authorized representative of the prime contractor should be on the job at all times.

This allows the Highway Commision to retain control of the various salvage operations through the prime contractor. (See Spec. 593)

The prime contractor may sell the house or structure if it is torn down on the existing site. Under no circumstances should a house or structure be moved from its existing site unless provided for in the contract. The prime contractor must keep all houses and structures secure to avoid creating a public hazard. No items should be stored on the premises, the right of way, or the street pending sale or other disposal.

Sometimes salvage work removes enough of the structure to constitute demolition, and a wrecking permit is needed for salvaging. A rule of thumb is: if the salvage work causes any portion of the structure to collapse or endangers persons entering the structure after salvage is completed, the work is considered demolition. To remove all doubt, permits should be obtained and posted before work begins. Posting permits too early invites vandalism. APPENDIX SAMPLE RECORD PAGES

	INDEX PAGE		
NO.	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO.	
1			

CONTRACTORS PERSONNEL	INSPECTION	PERSONNEL 2
	ROBERT C. FAY	RESIDENT ENGR.
J.C. WHITE EXCAVATING		OFFICE 365 5702
2120 HARDING RD.		HOME
DES MOINES, JOWA.		
	KEN BUCKLIN	ABOT. RESIDENT ENGR.
SLIPT. RALPH WHITE		OFFICE - 365 5798
TRUCK DRIVER - DON ROBINSONI		HOME -
TRUCK DRIVER - R.C. WHITE		
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		LINN COUNTY
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2	PARCEL 924	120 3 Rd ST. N.W	2 STORY FRAME	HOUSE	650.00	4.67	501	7	29
3	PARCEL 833	300 A AVE NW	I STORY FRAME	HOUSE	450.00	3.23	501	8	29
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