

Construction site restart planning guide

Risk Control services

from Helmsman Management Services

This guide can help you identify potential hazards during a construction site restart. As each situation is unique, the following statements can help you focus on potential issues, so you can develop a plan or improve an existing plan to help safeguard your workers, the public, and the overall project.

Seek the advice of your management and legal counsel when developing a restart plan.

Proactively developing a restart plan is one of the best ways to help control costs from workplace incidents, public injuries, and property damage.

Workforce and communication

- Determine activities and personnel needed to manage the startup.
- Determine additional expertise that may be needed outside your organization.
- Consider scheduling meetings with trade partners prior to startup to organize, prioritize, and coordinate various trades, tasks, and other items as applicable.
- Prepare workers for the tasks they have not performed over an extended period.

- Review CDC/NIOSH guidance as well as federal, state, and local regulations to determine how to implement them, such as:
 - Designating a responsible person to establish program elements and monitor conditions related to any ongoing health concerns
 - Retaining social distancing when performing activities, meetings and tasks
 - Cleaning and disinfecting common spaces such as job trailers, shared equipment, and other high touch areas
 - Using face masks
 - Providing provisions for frequent handwashing
 - Symptom screening for workers and visitors. It is critical that such practices be discussed with legal counsel, as the information obtained may have implications on employment practices
 - Phasing in and staggering shifts to reduce the number of workers in a work area
 - Developing consistent human resource practices regarding returning workers back to the operation if they have been ill
- Review site specific safety plans to ensure they are current or if updates are needed to reflect current conditions and recommended practices.
- Determine resources and outreach you will have available to address worker mental health issues for loss of family members, friends, or co-workers, or recovery or substance use issues.
- Inspect break areas, job shack, trailers, and portable toilets to make sure they are ready for workers.
- Consider a reorientation for all workers returning to the jobsite.

Fall protection

- Ensure all fall protection systems are in place and in good condition.
- Ensure floor hole covers are in good condition and properly labeled.
- Ensure all personal fall arrest anchorage points are still acceptable.

- Evaluate the condition of harnesses, lanyards, and connectors.
- Determine whether all suspended scaffolding should be re-inspected by a qualified person prior to use.
- Determine whether controlled access zones will be re-established for leading edges.

Public protection

- Inspect or remove any loose or damaged objects from the project that could fall/fly and injure the public.
- Develop a plan to reestablish perimeter protection, traffic control, covered walkways, and lighting.
- Determine whether posted project contact information on site fencing needs to be updated.
- Evaluate whether safety signage is up to date or needs to be replaced.
- Evaluate whether all exterior fencing is secured and in good condition or if changes need to be made as the project restarts.
- Determine if updates need to be made to egress from adjacent properties impacted by the jobsite, such as fencing, excavations, equipment.

Temporary structures and infrastructure

- Inspect scaffolds, stair towers, and personnel hoists prior to use.
- Inspect shoring and re-shoring to ensure they are in place per the shoring engineer's recommendations and drawings.
- Obtain engineering approval for removing shoring or re-shoring before removing or adjusting.
- Inspect existing form work.
- Evaluate temporary utilities.
- Inspect your ladders.

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Structural integrity

- Evaluate structures that were not completed prior to restart, such as structural steel, precast, duct runs, and pan decking systems.
- Determine whether temporary support systems or plumbing lines need adjustment.

- Determine whether additional temporary support systems should be installed during the restart phase.
- Inspect all underground structures that were left unfinished or uncovered during the shutdown.
- Determine if a structural engineer needs to review the structure, such as unfinished precast or steel structures.
- Determine if any below-water-line systems (cofferdams, caissons, piles, etc.) need to be inspected prior to restart.
- Determine whether partially demolished structures need an engineering review prior to further demolition operations.

Excavations

- Evaluate if trenches or excavations will pose a cave-in hazard upon reopening.
 - Inspect existing support systems.
 - Have new utility locates identified by the locator service.
- Protect trenches and excavations to prevent workers from falling into them.
- Put required barricades in place and determine if they will require maintenance.
- Determine if soils need to be reclassified prior to re-entry.

Property protection

- Evaluate whether the project location requires on-site security.
- Determine if the security and badging system needs to be restarted.
- Identify specialty equipment or materials that need additional maintenance to restart.
- If emergency generators are on site for the project or to support abutting structures, evaluate whether they are in good condition to operate properly and if the inspection process needs to be modified due to startup.
- Ensure dewatering systems are operating properly.

Fire prevention

- Determine whether fire prevention systems such as sprinklers, standpipes, and alarm systems need to be inspected prior to restart.

- Determine how and where flammable liquids will be stored on site.
- Ensure that hoists/elevators are accessible and ready for use by workers and police/fire departments.
- Ensure project team communicates with local fire department about restarting the site.
- Determine if fire extinguishers need to be inspected prior to resuming work.

Mold and occupational disease (OD) prevention

Ensure that a plan is in place to address the following:

- Insect or rodent damage
- Water infiltration
- Mold damage
- Standing water
- Restarting HVAC systems to prevent OD exposures

Major equipment

- Determine how to move tools, material, and equipment safely back into the structure and how they will be secured against theft and damage.
- Determine how to safely restart cranes.

Inspections

Determine whether the following inspections need to occur prior to use:

- Third party re-inspection of cranes
- Rigging
- Excavation and earth moving equipment

Project records

Evaluate whether any of the following needs to occur:

- Video documentation of the site's condition prior to startup
- Re-inventorying all material and equipment
- Updating project schedule at time of startup
- Notifying appropriate parties of startup date

- Reviewing any other contractual documents
- Putting plans in place to pre-qualify new subcontractors
- Putting plans in place to qualify contractors that are no longer able to perform the work
- Posting project contact information on site fencing in case of emergency
- Keeping project records, including insurance related documents and shut down documentation in a secured and accessible location for a minimum of the applicable statute of repose



Your safety and well-being are our primary concern. These suggestions are general in nature, so please ensure that any activities you contemplate comply with all federal, state, and local COVID-19 orders impacting your facilities or operations as well as CDC guidelines for social distancing, hygiene, and other recommended best practices.

Our risk control services are advisory only. We assume no responsibility for: managing or controlling customer safety activities, implementing any recommended corrective measures, or identifying all potential hazards. No attempt has been made to interpret any referenced codes, standards, or regulations. Please refer to the appropriate government authority for interpretation or clarification.

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