

## DEMOLITION: How NFDC Members are Creating a COVID-Secure Workplace

# STAY SAFE

PREVENT THE SPREAD  
OF THE VIRUS



### Demolition Goes Back to Work

UK Demolition sites have been tentatively re-opening during the last few weeks of lockdown, following clarity from the UK government that the construction sector should remain operational, provided that Coronavirus guidelines can be adhered to - and the workforce can stay safe, both when travelling to work and on site.

NFDC Members had already been going to lengths to avoid the spread of the virus on site – taking the responsibility of safeguarding their workforce, main contractors and the general public very seriously.

Following the Prime Minister's national address on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> May and the subsequent publication of the COVID-19 Recovery Strategy and sector specific guidelines on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> May, NFDC expects a ramp-up of member demolition activity, though clearly the sector will remain far from 'normal' in terms of work-levels for the foreseeable future.

Demolition business leaders noted that they expect to take a significant cost hit for the additional equipment, assessment and monitoring time, reduced working hours and reduced productivity and efficiency due to a slower pace of working and changes in working practices.

All NFDC Members have been issued with 'Stay Safe – Avoid the Spread' signage by their Federation and are displaying this prominently in key areas, not limited to site entrances, exits and welfare facilities.

A 'Site Operating Procedures Toolbox Talk' was developed and issued as a resource for CCDO Supervisors to deliver to their Operatives - ensuring all members of the workforce are aware of the new procedures, have personal accountability for hygiene and are following the rules designed to protect everyone.

NFDC accredited demolition contractors shared some of the approaches they have taken to de-risk their sites and create a COVID secure workplace.

Whilst not all of these measures are being implemented by each individual demolition contractor, the combined list represents a 'best in class' approach to safeguarding workers and avoiding the spread of the virus on demolition sites.

### Measures Being Taken by NFDC Members

Key measures being implemented on demolition sites are summarised below;

- **Temperature Controls** – temperatures are taken with non-contact thermometers and recorded on arrival to site, during the day and on leaving the demolition site. If a high temperature is recorded, the Operative is sent home immediately to follow NHS and government self-isolation guidelines. This also applies for any worker presenting with any other COVID-19 symptoms whilst on site.
- **Reduced Workforce** - CAD drawings have been developed to establish human capacity per floor/site based on the maintenance of a 2-metre distance between Operatives.
- **COVID-19 Marshals**, equipped with full PPE, have been appointed to monitor distancing and prompt separation of the demolition workforce from main contractors.
- **Staggered start** and finish times have been implemented to avoid mass gathering at peak times.
- **Increased hand sanitisation** stations have been provided at entrance, exit, bathroom and canteen facilities.
- **Extended Walkways** have been created on site to maintain safe distancing and prominent 'Stay Apart' signage is displayed throughout the site and on PPE e.g: hard hats and hi-vis.
- **Segregation of Parking and Bathroom Facilities** has been enabled.
- **Upgraded PPE** is being issued where possible, to include heavy duty goggles ensuring a tight seal around the eyes and permeable gloves that can be boil-washed when work is complete. Sufficient and appropriate PPE is provided for all workers as standard.
- **Enhanced record-keeping** has been put in place by company management to ensure a higher level of documentation regarding the implementation of, and workforce compliance with, COVID-specific safety measures and site inductions.

In addition to these measures, demolition employers are doing their utmost to encourage their workforces to avoid public transport, per government guidelines.

*Whilst significant measures are in place to take care of the physical health of the demolition workforce, NFDC and its Members are also continuing to provide resources and support for workers' mental health and wellbeing during this time of heightened stress and uncertainty. With Mental Health Awareness week around the corner, themed this year as Kindness, the demolition family extends a virtual arm around the shoulders of those struggling and actively encourages them to reach out for the help that is available within the sector.*