



Demolition Notifications in Residential Areas: Guidelines for Signage and Door Hanger Use

Through the Alliance between OSHA's National Office and National Demolition Association (NDA), NDA developed Demolition Notifications in Residential Areas Signage and Door Hanger Guidelines for informational purposes only. It does not necessarily reflect the official views of OSHA or the U.S. Department of Labor. (September, 2023)

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Under the Occupational Safety and Health Act, employers are responsible (<https://www.osha.gov/workers/employer-responsibilities>) for providing a safe and healthy workplace and workers have rights (<https://www.osha.gov/workers>). OSHA can help answer questions or concerns from employers and workers. OSHA's On-Site Consultation Program (www.osha.gov/consultation) offers free and confidential advice to small and medium-sized businesses, with priority given to high-hazard worksites. For more information, contact your regional or area OSHA office (<https://www.osha.gov/contactus/bystate>), call 1-800-321-OSHA (6742), or visit www.osha.gov.

Demolition Notifications in Residential areas

A unique challenge for the demolition industry is notifying residential communities that will be impacted by demolition work, whether it be a of a house, school, or local business that is in, or adjacent to the area. Communication with the surrounding community can be extremely important, and in some jurisdictions legally required.

Below are sample communications (ready to customize and print) as well as some best practices guidelines. These samples must be customized with jobsite contact information prior to use. Prior to implementing any of these practices the demolition contractor encouraged and in some cases required to contact the authority having jurisdiction over the area and discuss requirements regarding demolition communications to determine appropriate resources/references to be listed on Demolition communication best practices. **Once jobsite and local information is obtained you must work with your local print shop or designer to incorporate customizations in the included examples.** Users are encouraged to post/translate signage/door hangers language based on the needs of local demographics in proximity to the job-site.

Lawn Signs:

Lawn signs are a great way to communicate upcoming demolition and may be required in some jurisdictions. For example, in the City of Detroit, three lawn signs are required to be placed in front of a structure visible from 3 sides and shall be installed a minimum of 72 hours prior to the demolition starting. The intent is to place lawn signs prominently in front, along each side, and/or behind the structure, to notify nearby residents and residential contractors that the structure will be undergoing demolition activities. A sample sign has been included in the download package. This sign is formatted in a .PDF format or an .AI format to be printed at 24" x 18". **The signs must be edited by your local printer to accommodate your exact needs.**

Because signage may be needed in multiple languages based on local demographics in proximity to the job-site, the sample lawn sign includes a QR code that links to Google Translate. Google Translate is a complementary translation service developed by Google that translates of text to the desired language for the end-user. Language detection is handled by the QR code. Google Translate determines the user's phone language after reading QR code. The language translation is handled by Google Translate while the QR image itself is generated using the Google Charts API. **Please work with your local printer or designer to generate your code.** Once the QR code is scanned by the user's smart phone or other QR code reader, a link to the Google Translate app will automatically appear (if the user does not already have the app on their smart device). Once the app has been downloaded, the user can scan any text available (including yard sign, door hanger, etc.) to have it translated into another language. In the app, the QR code can be changed to link to any existing website or document that may be required by the authority having jurisdiction (AHJ), and additional QR codes can be added to the signage if needed or required by the AHJ. It is important to contact your local authority, as guidelines will vary based on jurisdiction.

Door Hangers:

Door hangers may be placed on the doorknobs on nearby buildings to notify the neighbors and any residential subcontractors of upcoming demolition work in their area. Each jurisdiction may have their own requirements for the extent of door hanger distribution. For example, in the City of Detroit, door hangers must be placed on all structures within a 400' radius of the building to be demolished. Standard door hangers are 11" x 4". A sample door hanger has been included in the download package. This door hanger is formatted in a .PDF format or an

.AI format to be printed at 11" x 4". **The signs must be edited by your local printer to accommodate your exact needs.**

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As noted above, community communication is important and may also be required by the jurisdiction. Please contact local authorities to verify specific notification requirements.

The download package includes:

- a. Sample Lawn sign formatted for 24" x 18" in .PDF format, includes embedded QR code for Google Translate (a visual translator for signage in any language that the reader chooses)
- b. Sample Lawn sign formatted for 24" x 18" in .AI format, includes embedded QR code for Google Translate (a visual translator for signage in any language that the reader chooses)
- c. Sample Door Hanger formatted for 11" x 4" in .PDF format, includes embedded QR code for Google Translate (a visual translator for signage in any language that the reader chooses)
- d. Sample Door Hanger formatted for 11" x 4" in .AI format, includes embedded QR code for Google Translate (a visual translator for signage in any language the reader chooses)

Sample Landing Page:

Below is an example of information provided once the individual has scanned the QR code. As noted, the information provided can vary by AHJ. At a minimum, information provided should include contact information for the contractor or site owner performing demolition activities. The AHJ may require posting owner/contractor company name, project manager and or superintendent name, contact information (phone, email and address), scope of work performed and insurance requirements.

