



Risk Consulting / Construction Risk Consulting

Suggestions for site closures

During any time of crisis, confinement measures that governments put in place have an immediate effect on the construction industry in general and on civil works projects, in particular. Materials not being delivered, workforce limitations and challenges in ensuring a safe work environment may lead to construction sites having to shut down.

Site closures should be carried out in an appropriate way to ensure adequate risk prevention during the shutdown period and, once confinement measures are lifted, when work on the site is able to restart.

The following suggestions provide a general and by no means comprehensive response for most construction site environments. Contractors may have to take specific security actions for high risk projects or in specific industrial environments.

General

- All official public source Health and Safety measures should be enforced
- The insured must take every precaution to protect the works and insured assets and prevent any loss or damage
- Before a site safety stoppage, time should be taken to plan and anticipate risks by carrying out a site-by-site audit. Engage with sub-contractors and other external parties to conduct the related planning work and reschedule or cancel all future deliveries or put measures in place to ensure that a dedicated team is in place to receive any deliveries
- Following approval by the contractors, engineering offices and architects, structural stability and equipment safety measures should be taken. For example, these include:
 - temporary stoppage of concrete pours
 - additional wind bracing to partitions
 - cladding and roofing
 - temporary works stability (scaffolds, towers, ladders...)
 - trench and excavation stability
 - crane shutdown safety
 - storage of mobile lifting and other equipment

Power and utilities

- Ensure that the energy sources (electricity, gas, fuel) that are not required are shut down and that the main water supply is shut off, except for any water supply required for fire protection
- Clearly identify all equipment, networks and utilities that remain. During shutdown, ensure that dedicated teams are trained to follow security procedures before re-start. Wherever possible, the team responsible for shut-down should also re-start. If this is not possible due to the length of the shut-down period, any required actions should be formalized in a detailed process description, including the identification of control points (plans, signage, etc.)

Site protection

- Guarantee complete fencing of the site with securable access points and a 24/7 watch service (full video protection, alarms and rounds – not in reduced mode). On building sites, where possible, close the ground floor access to prevent unauthorized entry into the building
- Implement inspection rounds to check for damage or disorder on the construction site and other parts of the insured's premises (storage, etc.) and that a specific site intervention procedure is in place to resolve/mitigate this

Safety equipment

- Keep in service and regularly maintain safety equipment, especially alarms, pumps and dewatering systems. Sprinkler systems should remain operational, in particular in high risk situations. All essential monitoring (retention walls, tunnel rock or soil conditions, third party buildings and structures, etc.) must be maintained and trigger alerts dealt with by a specific site intervention team. Do not cut power supply to these essential units

Water

- Check that water can flow freely to sewers (especially gutters/downpipes) and close any external skylights or openings (temporary tarpaulins/boarding) to avoid floor and site flooding in case of heavy rain.
- Install automatic water monitoring devices at strategic positions to alert and automatically shut off non-critical water supply (not sprinklers).
- Insulation on unfinished works should be protected (façades, partitions, roof waterproofing) as should timber structures, plaster works & electrical installations. Upstands may also be provided to stairwells and vertical service ducts. In case of freezing weather conditions or where there is a risk of leakage, water pipes should be drained.
- Open excavations and retention structures should be secured and regularly checked during site closure and measures taken to avoid collapse and water damage

Equipment in general

- Regularly maintain site equipment (cranes, lifts, etc.) and works (concrete curing, etc.) whenever necessary. If applicable, ventilate closed underground spaces and check their condition before allowing individuals to access them. Provide adequate ventilation to the site areas to avoid mold
- Safeguard all combustible materials (liquids, paints, oxygen bottles, flammable materials, etc.) and high-value construction materials and equipment outside the site in a closed, locked and ventilated place. Ensure site cleaning and the removal of all debris, rubbish, timber off-cuts, etc.

Signage and documentation

- Apply emergency response procedures and at each site entry point clearly display the site map (with site manager's office, access to floor plans, extinguisher, dry risers, sprinkler & alarm positions, all mains switch points (water/electricity/gas), material storage positions, flammable materials) and the emergency contact numbers. Relevant documents should be sent to the local emergency services (fire brigade, police). We suggest particularly close liaison with the fire brigade for high-value projects and projects involving a high risk of fire

Cleaning

- Although cleaning requirements are not detailed here, procedures for clean-up and decontamination of the site and site offices should be enforced.
- **Most importantly:** All official health guidance must be respected in full.

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