

C O P Y

The City of New York  
DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS

Demolition, Mechanical  
Stop Order  
Inspections

Departmental Memorandum

To: All Employees

Date: September 5, 1969

From: Commissioner John T. O'Neill

Subject: Mechanical Demolition

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All employees of the department are requested to notify the Borough Superintendent whenever they observe the use of machine demolition during demolition of any structure.

Mechanical demolition is accomplished by means of bulldozers, payloaders, cranes and clamshell buckets, cranes using a ball, machines used for pounding holes in floors, or by any other means other than removal by hand tools only. Loading of debris into trucks is not mechanical demolition.

The use of mechanical equipment for demolition without approval of the Building Department has become widespread. Frequently, the equipment is used after normal working hours or on weekends. The use of such equipment endangers the lives of not only the workmen but also the public, and it is essential that it be stopped except where the Borough Superintendent may determine that it may be used safely. Reporting the use of such equipment may save persons in this city from serious or fatal injury.

It is urged that any employee of the department, whether engineering, inspectional, or administrative, who observes such equipment being used for demolition at any time, notify the Borough Superintendent at the first opportunity either verbally or by means of a short note giving the location and type of equipment being used.

Note that it is essential that notification be made immediately, as any delay may permit completion of the demolition.

After normal working hours and on weekends or holidays, the night emergency section of the Building Department should be notified by calling 566-2397.

(Signed)

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John T. O'Neill  
Commissioner

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