



Scaffolds are for Safety

Scaffolding has been one of the primary tools used to perform elevated work in the construction industry for quite some time. Scaffolds are very useful because they allow you to gain access to work areas that are above floor level while providing a work platform. However, because of the design and configuration of mobile scaffolds, which are sometimes referred to as Baker or Perry scaffolds, they can become quite unstable when supporting a load.

THE FOLLOWING SAFETY TIPS SHOULD BE FOLLOWED WHILE USING A SCAFFOLD:

- Inspect scaffolds daily prior to use; particularly, guard rails, connectors, fastenings, footings, tie ins, and bracing.
- Keep platforms closely boarded, fenced and securely fastened.
- Don't stockpile materials on scaffolds; remove all materials and tools at the end of the day.
- Never overload scaffolds. Pile materials being worked over ledger and bearer points to minimize platform loading.
- Don't work on scaffolds during storms or high winds, and clear platforms of all ice and snow before using. Sand wet planking to prevent slipping.
- Protect scaffolds...don't bump or strike against scaffolds with vehicles or materials
- Control hoisted material from ground with taglines.
- Keep platforms and area around scaffold cleared of debris, unneeded equipment, material, and other hazards that will cause you to trip or fall.
- No scaffold shall be erected, moved, dismantled, or altered except under the supervision of competent persons.
- Guardrails and toe boards shall be installed on all open sides and ends of platforms more than ten feet above the ground or floor (*except needle beam scaffolds and floats*).
- Scaffolds four feet to ten feet in height, having a minimum horizontal dimension in either direction of less than forty-five inches, shall have standard guardrails installed on all open sides and ends of the platform.
- Guardrails shall be 2 x 4 inches, or the equivalent, and approximately forty-two inches high. Supports shall be at intervals not to exceed eight feet. Toe boards shall be a minimum of four inches in height.

- When persons are required to work or pass under the scaffold, they shall be provided with a screen between the toe board and the guardrail – extending along the entire opening, consisting of No. 18 Gauge U.S. Standard Wire and one half-inch mesh or the equivalent.
- Any employee working on a needle beam scaffold shall be protected by a safety harness and an independent secured lifeline.
- Planking for scaffolds shall be secured.
- All parts of the casters for the rolling scaffolds should be in good working condition.

Scarcely a day passes that we don't read of or hear about someone being injured or killed in a scaffold fall. Faulty design and inadequate construction are sometimes involved but, in most cases, scaffold accidents are caused by careless maintenance and improper use. Help keep your scaffolds safe by observing these simple procedures.

HOW THIS TOPIC APPLIES TO THIS JOB:

ATTENDEES: Print Name / Signature

DATE:

SUPERVISOR / FOREMAN SIGNATURE:

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