

TOOL BOX TALKS

Scaffold Safety Review

In the construction industry in the U.S., falls are the leading cause of worker fatalities. Each year, on average, between 150 and 200 workers are killed and more than 100,000 are injured as a result of falls at construction sites. Employers must provide a training program that teaches employees who might be exposed to fall hazards on scaffolds how to recognize such hazards and how to minimize them.

WORKSAFE TIPS

SUPPORTED SCAFFOLD SAFETY TIPS

Supported scaffolds consist of one or more platforms supported by outrigger beams, brackets, poles, legs, uprights, posts, frames, or similar rigid support.

Guardrails or personal fall arrest systems for fall prevention / protection are required for workers on platforms 10 feet or higher.

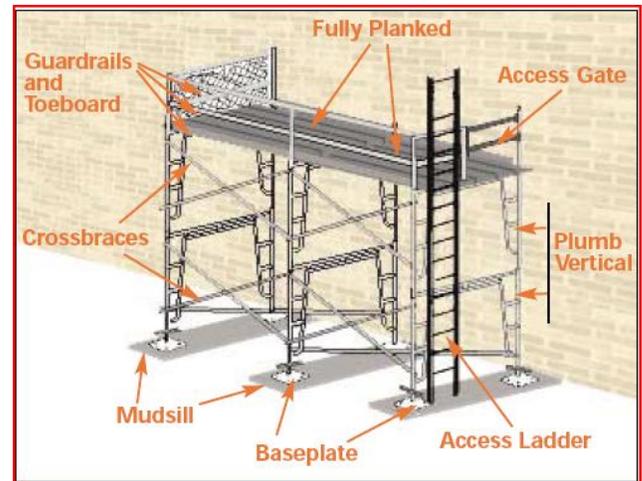
Working platforms/decks must be fully planked close to the guardrails.

Planks are to be overlapped on a support at least 6 inches, but not more than 12 inches.

Legs, posts, frames, poles, and uprights must be on base plates and mud sills, on a firm foundation; and, be plumb and braced.

SCAFFOLD USER TRAINING MUST INCLUDE:

- The hazards of type of scaffold being used;
- Maximum intended load and capacity;
- Recognizing and reporting defects;
- Fall hazards;
- Electrical hazards including overhead lines;
- Falling object hazards;
- Other hazards that may be encountered.



Inspect scaffolds and scaffold parts daily, before each work shift, and after any event that may have caused damage.

- Check to see if power lines near scaffolds are de-energized or that the scaffolds are at least 10 feet away from energized power lines.
- Make sure that tools and materials are at least 10 feet away from energized power lines.
- Verify that the scaffold is the correct type for the loads, materials, employees, and weather conditions.
- Check footings to see if they are level, sound, rigid, and capable of supporting the loaded scaffold.
- Check legs, posts, frames, and uprights to see if they are on base plates and mudsills.
- Check metal components for bends, cracks, holes, rust, welding splatter, pits, broken welds, and non-compatible parts.
- Check for safe access.
- Do not use the cross braces as a ladder for access or exit.



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