

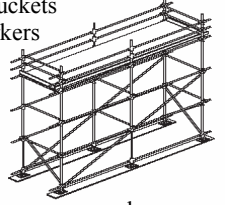


Company Name: _____ Job Site Location: _____

Date: _____ Start Time: _____ Finish Time: _____ Foreman/Supervisor: _____

Topic 2: Scaffolds (Part A)

Introduction: A scaffold is simply an elevated platform that supports workers and materials. Lay a board across a couple of tall buckets and you have a supported scaffold — but not a safe one. Most scaffolds used for construction work are complex structures and workers need to know how to erect them, dismantle them, and work from them safely. Unsafe scaffolds endanger workers in many ways.

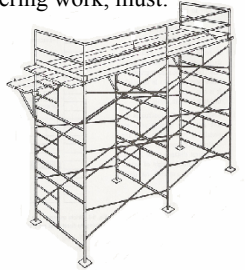
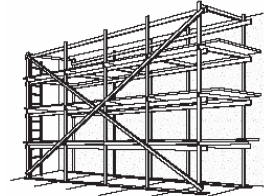


Components can break, collapse, or give way. Planks, boards, decks, or handrails can fail. In some cases, entire structures have collapsed. Even on sound scaffolds, workers can slip or lose their balance, and without appropriate protection, they don't have to fall far to get hurt. More often than not, scaffold accidents can be traced to untrained or improperly trained workers. Too often, untrained workers use makeshift staging, overload platforms, fail to inspect supports, or use scaffolds for the wrong tasks.

Learning scaffold rules will help identify what workers and employers need to know to use all types of scaffolds safely, so that a temporary work platform “won't let you down”. The following guidelines pertain to OSHA's requirements for the scaffolds used in construction, alteration, repair, and demolition work and do not apply to crane- or derrick-suspended personnel platforms. Becoming familiar with the scope, application, and definitions will help workers design, construct, and use scaffolds safely. Additionally, a competent person must be present for almost all scaffold operations.

A competent person is one who can identify hazardous working conditions and has authorization to take prompt corrective measures to eliminate them. The competent person, who has primary responsibility for supervising and directing all scaffolding erection, dismantling, and altering work, must:

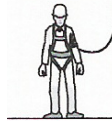
- **Know requirements** applicable to the types of scaffolds used.
- **Be able to identify** and correct hazards encountered in scaffold work.
- **Determine feasible** safe access for persons erecting and dismantling scaffolds.
- **Inspect scaffolds** and components for hazards before each work shift.
- **Supervise all** scaffold erection, dismantling, and altering work.
- **Determine** the fall protection requirements for scaffold erection and dismantling operations.
- **Determine whether** it is safe to work on scaffolds during storms or high winds.



A Scaffold “safe practices” checklist should cover the following topics:

Access:

- Maintain a safe access to scaffolds and scaffold platforms.
- Do not climb cross-braces to reach a scaffold platform.
- Use ladders or stairways to reach platforms that are more than 2 feet above or below the access point.



Components and connections:

- Never use damaged scaffold components. Repair or replace them immediately.
- Make sure a competent person inspects the scaffold components before each work shift.
- Do not modify components.
- Do not mix components made by different manufacturers.



Environment:

- Watch for electrical hazards, slippery platforms, and strong winds.

Erecting, dismantling, and moving:

- Have only trained and experienced workers erect scaffolds.
- Never roll a scaffold by yourself while you are on it.
- Never use wood outrigger systems.

Fall protection and falling objects:

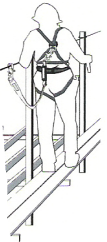
- Match appropriate fall-protection systems with scaffold type.
- Make sure platforms are properly guarded to workers and equipment from falling.
- Do not drop anything from a scaffold.

Inspection:

- Regularly inspect scaffold components for hazards.

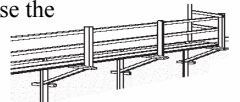
Leveling:

- Keep the scaffold level, plumb, and square.
- Do not use bricks, blocks, barrels or other unstable objects to level a scaffold.



Platforms:

- Do not work on slippery platforms.
- Never use a stage that is too long or too short for the job.
- Planking must be sound and meet OSHA requirements.
- Do not use makeshift methods to increase the working height of a scaffold platform.



Conclusion: Scaffolds are important equipment on many constructions sites. The nature of scaffolds causes them to be the leading OSHA violation and one of the primary causes of falling injuries. Follow these guidelines for safe scaffold operations. (See Scaffolds Part B)

Work Site Review

Work-Site Hazards and Safety Suggestions: _____

Personnel Safety Violations: _____

Employee Signatures:

(My signature attests and verifies my understanding of and agreement to comply with, all company safety policies and regulations, and that I have not suffered, experienced, or sustained any recent, job-related injury or illness.)

Foreman/Supervisor's Signature: _____

These guidelines do not supercede local, state, or federal regulations and must not be construed as a substitute for, or legal interpretation of, any OSHA regulations.