

SAFETY AWARENESS

Brief Topic Safety Refresher Training For Associates

2024

Work Site Scaffolding Safety

The majority of scaffold accidents on the construction site are caused by falls, slipping or being struck by an object from above. All of these accidents can be prevented by taking the proper precautions. Here's how.

General Safety Tips

- To prevent slipping hazards, conduct a daily routine inspection to ensure all walking and working surfaces are free from potential hazards. If you spot a hazard, remove it.
- Never move, dismantle or alter a scaffold unless under the supervision of a qualified person while doing such activities.
- Never move a scaffold with workers still on it.
- Keep scaffold loads below maximum capacity and remove your equipment when the scaffold is not in use.
- Be alert for bad weather. High winds and driving rain and snow can be dangerous when working at high levels.
- Make-shift devices, such as pallets, concrete blocks, boxes, or barrels, shall not be used as platforms to stand on while performing work on a scaffold.
- Ladders shall not be used on scaffolds to increase the working level height of employees, except on large area scaffolds where the Competent Person has specifically approved the use of ladders that have been set up to meet additional OSHA safety criteria.
- Do not climb up or stand on cross braces, guardrails, cross-members on frames, or other scaffold components to gain height while working on a scaffold platform.
- Where swinging loads are being hoisted onto or near scaffolds such that the loads might contact the scaffold, tag lines or equivalent measures to control the loads shall be used.
- Make sure that platforms do not deflect more than 1/60 of the span when loaded. Heavy items such as, but not limited to, pallets of bricks or blocks, mortar boards or buckets, compressors, and other heavy materials or equipment, might need to be separated, or be placed at or near the vertical frames to lessen the load on the center of platform planks.

Protection for Those Below

- Always hoist up heavy tools, equipment and supplies, rather than carry them up by hand.
- There must be a 3½"-high toeboard to prevent things falling off a scaffold. If things on the scaffold are taller than 3½" (above the toeboard) other systems, like debris nets, must be used to catch falling tools or materials.
- Always wear a hard hat when working on and around a scaffold.
- Never walk under or near the scaffold if roped off when work is being performed above.

