



5-minute safety talk

Procedures for Frame Scaffolding Erection

Falls from scaffolds are one of the leading causes of injuries and deaths in the construction industry. Most of these accidents happen because of improper erection of the scaffold, inappropriate use by workers and the lack of inspection and maintenance of the scaffold after it has been erected.

Scaffolding is not to be erected, moved, dismantled or altered unless supervised by a "competent person."

Before each shift, prior to anyone using the scaffold, a complete inspection of the scaffolding equipment should be made by a competent person. Keep in mind that there may be additional hazards in and around the scaffold based on specific equipment and the jobsite.

During the pre-shift inspections make sure:

- All planking is scaffold grade and in good condition without defects.
- Platforms contain safe and proper access.
- Guardrails are installed and secured to prevent displacement.

- Planks overlap on frame supports at least 6", but not more than 12".
- Scaffolds can support their own weight and at least 4 times the maximum intended load.
- Scaffolds are 10 feet or more away from energized power lines.
- Scaffolds are plumb, square, level and situated on base plates and mud sills or firm foundation.
- The required guardrails and toe boards are installed.
- Scaffolds are secured to the building when required.
- If the scaffold is more than 10 feet high and guardrails are not installed, workers require a fall arrest system; a body support, a connecting means and anchorage (tie off).

Avoid overloading scaffolds. Place necessary materials over ledger and barer points to minimize platform loading and clear excess debris. At the end of the day, remove all materials and tools.

Don't work on scaffolds during storms or high winds. Clear platforms of all ice and snow before using. Sand wet planking to prevent slipping.

Protect scaffold equipment. Don't bump or strike against scaffolds with vehicles or materials; control hoisted material from ground with taglines.

Train scaffold workers. Training should include information about the scaffolding being used, load and capacity of the equipment, identification and reporting of defects, and specific hazards of the job. Workers should be retrained if the type of scaffolding or other equipment changes.

Prevent injuries below scaffolds. Keep areas around scaffolds clear of debris, unneeded equipment and materials. Use appropriate toe boards, netting or other approved systems for catching falling objects. If necessary, take measures to prevent people from walking under or near the scaffold.

Visit [nsc.org/members](https://www.nsc.org/members)
for more safety tips

