



## Second Talk: Scaffolding Safety

### Job site example

Willie, a construction worker, fell 20 feet from an unsecured scaffold. He had been helping to install metal frames on the outer wall of a residential building when the incident happened. The leaning scaffold was not tied off, and while Willie was working, the scaffold moved away from the building. He then fell to the ground, hitting his head on the second story, and died.

It's a terrible thing to realize that hardly a work day goes by without a construction worker falling off a scaffold to his death. These deaths can be prevented.

### Designing scaffolding

To avoid the use of makeshift platforms, each job should be carefully planned to assure that scaffolding is used when required and that scaffolding conforms to the applicable regulations.

- All scaffolds must be fully planked and constructed to support the load they are designed to carry. Scaffold planks must be cleated or secured, or extend over the end supports by at least 6 inches, but not by more than 12 inches.
- Ties, guys, and braces for a scaffold must be installed according to the scaffold manufacturer's recommendations. If the specifications are unknown then the standards at 29 CFR 1926.451(c)(1) must be followed.
- Barrels, boxes, kegs, horses, ladders, loose tile blocks, loose piles of bricks, A-frames or other unstable objects shall not be used as work platforms or to support scaffolds. Never use work platforms mounted on top of other work platforms.

- Guardrails, midrails and toeboards must be installed on all open sides of scaffolds, 10 feet or more in height.
- Falling object protection must be provided in areas where persons are required to work or pass under a scaffold.
- Overhead protection is required if employees working on scaffolds are exposed to overhead hazards.

If you find a ladder in poor condition, tag the ladder and take it out of service. If repairs are not feasible, the defective ladder should be removed from the job site.

### Using scaffolding

1. Inspect scaffolds daily before you trust your life to them. Check guardrails, connectors, fastenings, footings, tie-ins, bracing and planking. Damaged scaffolds must be removed from service immediately.
2. Do not climb cross-bracing as a means of access.
3. Don't stockpile materials on scaffolds. Remove all tools and leftover materials at the end of the day.
4. Never overload scaffolds. Pile necessary materials over ledger and bearer points.
5. Keep platforms and area near the scaffold clear of debris, unneeded equipment or material, and anything else that might cause you to slip or trip.
6. Use access ladders provided for each scaffold. Climbing off the end frames is prohibited.
7. In winter, clear platforms of all ice and snow before using. Sand wet planking for sure footing.
8. Never 'ride' a (mobile) rolling scaffold.

9. Only use a rolling scaffold on level surfaces, and lock caster breaks when not in motion. When moving, make certain the route is clear of holes and overhead obstructions. Secure all loose materials.
10. Use personal fall protection equipment tied off to an anchorage point from a lanyard, lifeline and/or deceleration device, when working from floats, needle beam scaffolds, or suspended scaffolds.
11. Protect ropes and safety lines from burning or welding.

### Care of scaffolding

Help protect scaffolds, don't bang into them with equipment or materials. When hoisting material from the ground, control it with a tagline..

## REMEMBER!

Give a scaffold the respect it deserves and it will serve as a convenient work platform.

### Suggested Questions for your Toolbox Talks

- How could Willie's death have been prevented?
- How are scaffolds used on this job site and how will you use them safely?
- How often should a scaffold be inspected?
- What should you do if you find defects on a scaffold?
- When are guard rails required on the scaffolds used on this job site?
- When can you use the cross-bracing or end frames to climb up or down a scaffold?

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