

Discussion Leader:

Attendance Sign-In:

Summary

Contractors use scaffold systems to access the elevated working areas are many if not most construction projects. It saves time and avoids injuries from accessing elevated heights by ladders and avoiding the manual handling of tools while climbing stairs and ladders. But there are still hazards that exist and all workers using scaffold should know how to safely access and work on it as well as being able to recognize and report hazards they may encounter. If it takes a piece of equipment to lift materials, then you can bet that if the load falls, it can seriously injure or kill you. Always be aware of overhead operations and remember basic safety rules. Below you will find a guide to the areas that should be focused on while using and working off of scaffolds.

Guide for Discussion

- Monitor weather conditions, especially during winds. Ensure that materials and equipment are secured from displacement.
- Be aware of overhead powerlines and the location of the scaffold.
- Never use a scaffold structure to ground electrical equipment.
- Is the scaffold platform fully planked with less than 1" between planks or between planks and the uprights?
- Are open sides of scaffold less than 14 inches from the work face?
- Where open sides of scaffolds are more than 14 inches will fall protection systems be used by all employees?
- Where planks are overlapped are they lapped over the supports?
- Are planks overlapped at least 12 inches, nailed together or otherwise secured?
- Are scaffolds erected on adequate firm footings?
- Is scaffold plumb and braced to prevent swaying or displacement?
- Are guardrails and midrails installed on all open sides and open ends of the platform?
- Have toeboards been installed to prevent falling objects?
- Be aware of protruding objects and low clearances.
- Use proper accessing ways and ensure objects and tools being used are not drop hazards

Additional Discussion Notes:

Remember

It is important that the overhead danger of moving materials across, near or over a scaffold on a worksite be watched by all assigned to this task. It is important that all workers are aware of the overhead hazard. Once a load begins to free fall, that load is difficult to avoid.