

Toolbox Talk # 10.03 – Scaffold Inspections

Scaffolding is a temporary, field-erected structure used for working aloft. Because it is temporary and field erected, it is subject to wear and abuse, improper assembly, and unauthorized changes. Construction standards require that a "competent person" inspect scaffolds for defects before every work shift. Yet, in all industries, every employee who works on or around scaffolding should be aware of safety requirements. The following list includes things to watch for:

- Scaffolding must be erected on firm footing capable of carrying the maximum intended load. Boxes, barrels, loose concrete blocks or brick must not be used to support the structure.
- Consideration must be given to the weight the scaffold is to carry. It must be capable of supporting, without failure, four times the maximum intended load. The load includes not only the weight of the people on the scaffold but also any supplies and equipment being used.
- The planking used must be "scaffold grade." The wood must be clear, free of loose knots, splits, or other defects.
- Toe boards at least 4" high should be installed along the outer scaffold edge, to prevent tools or materials from falling onto workers below.
- Guardrails must be used when the platform is 6 feet or higher.

Guardrails are usually made of 2x4 lumber or steel pipe. The top rail should be about 42" above the scaffold-walking surface, with a "mid-rail" at about 21 inches. Fiber or wire rope can be used if it is attached to rigid supports and kept taut.

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Project: _____

Date: _____

Supervisor: _____

Company: _____

Other safety issues covered or comments from crew members:

Attendees:

Name: (please print)	Signature:	Company:
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