

Toolbox Talk # 10.04 – Stay Alert on Scaffolds

Your supervisor and coworkers can do everything right in setting up a scaffold according to the safety rules, but if you don't use it properly your scaffold can be a death trap. Here are some tips to help you remember how to stay safe on scaffolds.

Electrical safety

Adhere to the safe clearance distances when working near exposed power lines.

Use the proper insulation and grounding protection while welding.

Fall protection

When you are on a scaffold more than ten feet above a lower level, you must be protected from falling to that lower level.

Follow the fall protection provisions for the type of scaffold you are using.

The two types of fall protection are personal fall arrest systems or guardrail systems.

Falling object protection

In addition to wearing a hardhat, you must be provided with additional protection from falling hand tools, debris, and other small objects.

Falling object protection is provided through the installation of toeboards, screens, guardrail systems, debris nets, catch platforms, or canopy structures that contain or deflect the falling objects.

Below the scaffold, your employer may set up barricades to prevent workers from entering the area where objects may fall.

Scaffold access

Access to and between scaffold platforms more than two feet above or below the access point must be made using safe equipment (ladders, stairways, ramps, walkways, etc.).

Crossbraces must not be used for access.

Portable, hook-on, and attachable ladders must be positioned so as not to tip the scaffold.

When hook-on and attachable ladders are used on a supported scaffold more than 35 feet high, they must have rest platforms every 35 feet.

Scaffold use

Scaffolds and scaffold components must not be loaded more than their maximum intended loads or rated capacities, whichever is less.

Scaffolds and components must be inspected for visible defects by your competent person before each work shift, and after any occurrence which could affect a scaffold's structural integrity.

Scaffolds must be erected, moved, dismantled, or altered only under the supervision and direction of your qualified competent person.

You are prohibited from working on scaffolds covered with snow, ice, or other slippery material except to remove the slippery material.

Work from scaffolds is prohibited during storms or high winds unless your competent person has determined it is safe and you are protected by a personal fall arrest system or wind screen.

Debris must not be allowed to accumulate on platforms.

Makeshift devices, such as (but not limited to) boxes and barrels, must not be used to increase your working level height. Ladders may only be used on scaffold platforms under very limited restrictions.

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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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