

TOOLBOX TALK 27/60

DATE:

TOPIC: SCAFFOLDS

OBJECTIVE: TO ENSURE THAT SCAFFOLDS ARE CONSTRUCTED SAFELY



Easiest way to conduct and document your safety meetings!

→ Some things to know before you give your talk.

- ☞ Over one-third of the serious injuries to workers in the building trades are caused by falls from one level to another.
- ☞ These accidents usually occur because someone is working or standing on an unsafe surface (a makeshift scaffold) or using a scaffold incorrectly or working on one that hasn't been put up properly.
- ☞ They may seem safe but they can be very dangerous.

→ Makeshift scaffolds should not be used and are made of such things as:

- ☞ Concrete blocks
- ☞ Boxes
- ☞ Buckets
- ☞ Piles of scrap material
- ☞ Poorly supported wooden planks
- ☞ Machinery

Take the time to build a safe scaffold. We are not in such a hurry that we are willing to sacrifice safety. There are a couple kinds of scaffolds that are acceptable if built right.

→ Some examples of scaffolds and things to remember when erecting them are:

Rolling Scaffold

- ☞ They should only be used on a level surface.
- ☞ The height should not exceed 4 times the minimum base dimension, unless guyed or equipped with outriggers.
- ☞ Decking should be full width and secured against displacement.
- ☞ They should have guardrails, midrails and toe boards.
- ☞ All casters should be locked except when the scaffold is being moved.
- ☞ No one should be on it while it is being moved.



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→ Tubular Metal Scaffold

- ☞ Should be tied to and braced against the structure at intervals not to exceed 9m horizontally and 7.92m vertically.
- ☞ They should have guardrails, midrails and toe boards.
- ☞ Screw jacks should be adjusted to plumb and level the scaffold.
- ☞ All cross bracing should be installed.
- ☞ Mudsills should be used on soft ground.
- ☞ Planks should be lapped not less than 30cm nor more than 46cm
- ☞ Ice or snow should be cleaned off before it is used.
- ☞ Safe means of access should be provided – Climbing cross bracing is dangerous.

→ Try this for show and tell!

- ☞ Look at some job site scaffolds and talk about what is right about them and what is wrong.

→ Questions you can use to get them talking:

- ☞ Have you seen any makeshift scaffolds on this job? Where?
- ☞ Why do we see so many makeshift scaffolds on construction jobs?
- ☞ Has anyone ever had an accident – or know of one – involving a makeshift scaffold?

