

Scaffolding

Introduction:

Scaffolding was originally intended to be a safety aid. However, because of misuse and improper erection and dismantling scaffolding causes serious problems in construction due to a high frequency and severity of accidents. More than half of these injuries are due to falls.

Hazards:

- All frames must have a solid level foundation with insert foot at each base.
- All work platforms must be fully planked - maximum opening 1 inch.
- 14-inch maximum distance to front work surface unless lathing (18”).
- All walkways 18 inch minimum with guard railing.
- Cross brace can be top rail or mid-rail but not both.
 - 38" to 48" platform to cross point of bracing, can be top rail
 - 20" to 30" can be mid rail.
 - Between 30+" to 38-", need both.
 - End frames need guardrails also.

Safe procedures:

- A “competent person” should direct all erection and dismantling of scaffold system components including.

- Foundations
- Frames
- Cross bracing and guardrails
- Train all workers on requirements of project.
- Inspect before use each day and as things change—by “competent person.”
- Make sure guardrails provide fall protection on scaffolds and meet OSHA requirements.
- Never climb cross bracing for access—maximum 24 inches to first step of access.
- Provide falling object protection, toe board or block off area if workers below.
- Communicate with all users about when scaffolding is ready for use.

In conclusion:

Discuss with workers:

- Who are the competent persons on this jobsite? Who are the back-ups?
- Will other trades be using the scaffold and do they have a competent person for their use?
- Guard railing should be at all levels above one frame to protect from falls, OSHA mandates at 10 feet.
- All scaffolds require hardhat use.