



## **Construction Scaffolding**

Many construction accidents result from improper construction and use of scaffolds. Height is not the only factor – short falls are also dangerous.

While each type of scaffold has its own particular hazards, there are certain major problems which are common to all. Men fall from scaffolds and injure themselves – tools fall off scaffolds and injure others.

When scaffolds and staging are properly designed and constructed, and when workmen observe proper safety measures and maintenance, there need be no greater hazards on scaffolds than in any other work area.

Scaffolds constructed for safety provide safe working conditions.

There must be secure footing for uprights. This is especially important when they rest on the earth, sand or other loose material.

Top and mid guard rails and toe boards make for safe working conditions on scaffolds and working platforms.

Toe boards are fastened to inside of uprights. With metal tubular scaffolds, toe boards are nailed to platform planks or bolted to inside of uprights.

When constructing scaffolds, nails should be of proper size and used properly. A minimum of four nails per joint is recommended, and all nails should be “driven home.” No nail should be subjected to direct pull. Only designated scaffolding materials shall be used. Scaffold working platforms must be kept free of rubbish and of snow, ice, oil, or grease.

Tools should not be left on scaffolds overnight nor should there be stockpiling of materials on scaffolds.

Never build an open fire upon or near wooden scaffolds or metal scaffolds with flammable components.

Men working on a swinging scaffold should wear a safety belt with lanyard properly fastened to an independent safety line.

Hard hats must be worn by men on scaffolds, particularly if work is being carried on overhead.

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