HAZARD ALERT

CPWR
THE CENTER FOR CONSTRUCTION RESEARCH AND TRAINING

SCAFFOLDS

TIPS FOR SAFE WORK

Am I in danger?

Every year, construction workers are injured or killed falling from scaffolds because there was no fall protection.

This worker is at risk because there is no fall protection.

Falls are not the only hazard.

You can also be injured or killed:

- When a scaffold collapses because it is unstable or overloaded.
- By tools and materials that fall off a scaffold.
- By electrocution. Scaffolds should be at least 10 ft away from overhead powerlines.*

PHOTO COURTESY OF NIOSH/JOHN REKUS

*OSHA Standard 29 CFR 1926.451(f)(6)

If you think you are in danger:

Contact your supervisor.
Contact your union.

Call OSHA
1-800-321-OSHA

To learn more visit:
www.stopconstructionfalls.org

To receive copies of this Hazard Alert and cards on other topics:
call **301-578-8500** or visit
www.cpwr.com

To work safely...

PHOTO COURTESY GREATER PA REGIONAL COUNCIL OF CARPENTERS

1 Set scaffold on a solid base

Scaffolds must be set up with a solid base, decks that are level, and posts or legs that are plumb. The base of the scaffold must have base plates (often part of the screw jack) and mud sills for added support. It should also have screw jacks for leveling inserted in the legs of the scaffold.

2 Use proper fall protection

If the working deck on your scaffold is 10 ft or higher, OSHA requires you to have some type of fall protection. Fall protection may be a guardrail system or a Personal Fall Arrest System.*

**Proper anchorage point, lanyard and harness.*

3 Check for points of scaffold safety

Before use, a **competent person*** must check to make sure:

- There is a way to get on and off the scaffold that meets OSHA rules for access.
- Work areas are fully planked or decked.
- Guardrails are installed properly or alternative fall protection is provided.
- Guys and ties to the building are installed properly and in good condition.

**A competent person is someone who is capable of identifying existing and predictable hazards in surroundings and who has authorization to take corrective measures to eliminate hazards. (Source: OSHA)*

Get trained.

There are many types of support and suspended scaffolds. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) requires employers to provide training:

- By a **competent person** to all workers assigned to erect and/or disassemble a scaffold.
- By a **qualified person*** to all workers who work on a scaffold.

Your employer must provide training on the type of scaffold you are assigned to erect, disassemble, or work on. You must be trained to identify dangerous conditions and to work safely.

**A qualified person is someone who by knowledge, training and experience has successfully demonstrated their ability to resolve problems relating to the project. (Source: OSHA)*

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