

AGC Tool Box Safety Talk

SCAFFOLDS: BASIC REQUIREMENTS

INTRODUCTION

1. Review any accidents or “near accidents” from the past week.
2. Describe the hazards of the work as they relate to your project. Explain or show the SAFE way of doing the job.
3. Give the TOOL BOX SAFETY TALK

When scaffolds are not erected or used properly, fall hazards can occur. About 2.3 million construction workers frequently work on scaffolds. Protecting these workers from scaffold-related accidents would prevent an estimated 4,500 injuries and 50 fatalities each year. Take these steps to help protect workers and reduce accidents:

- Follow industry guidelines for erecting scaffolds: verify that each scaffold and its components is capable of supporting, without failure, its own weight and at least four times the maximum intended load. Erect and dismantle under the direction of a scaffold competent person.
- Inspect scaffolds daily before use; check footing, guardrails, connectors, fastening, tie-ins and bracing.
- Do not use unstable objects such as barrels, boxes, loose bricks, or concrete blocks to support scaffolds or planks.
- Fully plank platforms on all working levels.
- Install guardrails and toe-boards on all open sides and ends of platforms on scaffolding over 10 feet above floor or ground.
- If a scaffold is more than two feet above or below a level, provide adequate access, such as a ramp, ladder, or steps.
- Do not erect, use, dismantle, alter or move scaffolds so they, or any conductive material handled on them, might come closer than 10 feet to energized overhead power lines.
- Obtain scaffold user training prior to working on scaffolding.
- Inspect all scaffolds prior to use or at least on a daily basis.

