

AGC Tool Box Safety Talk

SCAFFOLDS: USE OF BRACES FOR GUARDRAILS

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

Guardrails are installed on scaffolding to protect workers from falls. Cross-braces are used to support the structure and keep the scaffold square. In some instances, cross bracing may be used as guardrails. Follow these basic guidelines for installing guardrails:

- When working on scaffolds more than 10 feet above a lower level, install guardrails, mid-rails, and toe-boards along all open sides and ends of platforms.
- Install top rails so the top edge is between 39 and 45 inches.
- Install mid-rails halfway between the work platform and the top rail.
- Install toe-boards of a substantial material at least 4 inches high on all open sides and ends of platforms if there are workers below.
- You may use cross bracing as a top rail provided where it crosses is between 39 and 42 inches above the work platform.
- You may use cross bracing as a mid-rail provided the crossing point is approximately 20 inches above the work platform and you install a top-rail 39 to 45 inches above the work platform.
- You cannot use cross bracing as both top and mid-rail. Cross bracing can be only used as either a mid-rail or top-rail.

