

Scaffolding

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A Scaffold Is Only as Safe as Its Setup

Most scaffold injuries are caused by missing components, poor inspections, or overloaded platforms.



Ideas for the Talk

- Scaffolds erected on uneven ground without proper base plates or mud sills.
- Missing or improperly installed midrails, top rails, or toe boards.
- Materials stacked on scaffolds without consideration of load capacity.



Explanation of the Dangers of Violations

- Scaffold violations expose workers to fall hazards, collapse risks, and falling objects. Improperly built or overloaded scaffolds can suddenly shift or collapse, causing multiple workers to fall at once.
- Short-term consequences include fractures, head injuries, and crushing injuries.
- Long-term consequences range from permanent disability to fatalities and complete stoppage of the jobsite for investigation.



Demonstration Tips

- Walk the crew through a visual inspection, pointing out required guardrails, plank condition, and access points.
- Demonstrate the correct way to access scaffolds using ladders or stair systems—not climbing frames.



Key Talking Points

- Scaffolds must be erected, modified, and inspected by a competent person.
- Guardrails and proper access are required on most scaffolds.
- The scaffold's designed load capacity should never be exceeded.



Engagement Questions

- What scaffold problems have you seen most often in the field?
- Why is climbing the scaffold frame so dangerous?
- How often should scaffolds be inspected?



Closing Questions

- Did you personally inspect the scaffold before using it today?
- Who do you notify if you see missing components?
- Would you work on a scaffold you didn't trust?



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