

WEEKLY SAFETY MEETING

FOR THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

SAFETY MEETING OUTLINES

Box 700, Frankfort, IL 60423

815-464-0200

Vol. 22

No. 15

Week of 04/12/2021

Company Name _____ Job Name _____ Date _____

SCAFFOLDS

Scaffolding is serious business. When you're standing on a scaffold thirty or forty feet in the air, your life clearly depends on that scaffold. OSHA's scaffold regulations apply on all construction sites where scaffolds or aerial lifts are used. They apply to any employee who works on, under, or in close proximity to scaffolds or aerial lifts, or who erects or dismantles scaffolds, so pay attention because these regulations likely apply to **you**.

Because of the risks involved, OSHA requires that specially trained individuals be responsible for certain aspects of scaffolds. For most construction workers this means that there is at least one person on your jobsite who can answer your questions about how to use scaffolding safely, how to get on and off the scaffolding, and how much weight it can safely hold, including you, your tools, and building materials. A **competent person** must be present when scaffolding is erected or dismantled. A competent person is "one who is capable of identifying existing and predictable hazards in the surroundings or working conditions which are unsanitary, hazardous, or dangerous to employees, and who has authorization to take prompt corrective measures to eliminate them." A **qualified person** will design scaffolding and load it in accordance with that design. This is a person who, by extensive knowledge, training, and experience, has demonstrated the ability to solve or resolve problems related to scaffolding. Certain types of scaffolds, such as outrigger scaffolds, pole scaffolds over 60 feet high, and tube-and-coupler scaffolds over 125 feet high, can only be designed by a **registered professional engineer**.

Just because there is a trained and knowledgeable person around doesn't mean that you get to loaf. Take responsibility for your own safety. Inspect the scaffolding before you board it. Look for loose connectors and missing planks and guardrails. Check the footing and be sure that it is solid and stable. If the scaffold is resting on soil and it rains, a good, solid footing can turn into mud. Each scaffold and component must support its own weight and at least four times the maximum intended load. You may not be able to determine the scaffold's exact load rating, but you have an idea of how it should look and feel. If it feels shaky or wobbly, tell your supervisor, or the competent or qualified person, and get the problem corrected. If you need to know more about scaffolds, check with your supervisor or consult Subpart L of OSHA's construction standards starting at 29 CFR 1926.450.

SAFETY REMINDER

**Know how to use and work around scaffolds safely —
your livelihood and your life depend on it.**

Special Topics For Your Project _____

Employee Safety Recommendations _____

Reviewed MSDS # _____ Subject _____

Meeting Attended By _____

Supervisor's Signature _____