

TOOL BOX TALKS

Scaffold Safety

Construction Slip, Trip and Fall Prevention



Scaffolds can tip over, collapse or employees can fall through improper planking. Employees on the job site must recognize hazards while setting up, using and taking down scaffolds. Review this safety document with your employees.

Tool Box Tips

1. Use guardrails or personal fall arrest systems when scaffold work platforms exceed 10 feet in height.
2. Working platforms and decks must be fully planked with no more than a 14 inch gap from the building or wall.
3. Scaffold planks are to be overlapped on a support at least six inches but not more than 12 inches.
4. Do not use planking with knots, holes, cracks or rot.
5. Inspect scaffolds and scaffold parts daily before and after each work shift.
6. Check footings to see if they are level, sound, rigid, and capable of supporting the loaded scaffold.
7. Use two by four material as a guardrail in addition to scaffold X-frames.
8. Make sure that tools and materials are at least 10 feet away from energized power lines.
9. Contact your local electric company for guidance when working in close proximity to power lines.
10. Check metal components for bends, cracks, holes, rust, welding splatter, pits, broken welds and non-compatible parts.
11. Tie the scaffold back to the building at every 20 feet of vertical height.
12. Do not use scaffold end frames and legs without base plates.
13. Scaffold base plates must be nailed to mud sills on a firm foundation to prevent shifting.
14. Never set up end frames on concrete blocks or stacks of lumber as they are unstable.
15. Provide a good path for drainage so water does not damage the scaffold footing.

Inspect scaffolds and scaffold parts daily before and after each work shift.

These advisory materials have been developed from national standards and sources believed to be reliable, however, no guarantee is made as to the sufficiency of the information contained in the material and Missouri Employers Mutual Insurance Company assumes no liability for its use. Advice about specific situations should be obtained from a safety professional.

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