



PRESENTED BY:

MEETING START TIME:

DATE OF MEETING:

MEETING END TIME:

Keep the Conversation Going with a Safety Talk Question:

What do we need to do differently to improve scaffold safety on our job site?

1. What's the Risk? Here are the most common accidents:

- **Falls from Heights** – As of 2022, falls were the No. 1 accident, primarily due to lack of fall protection above 10 feet.
- **Falling Objects** – Tools, materials or debris falling from heights and causing injury to employees.
- **Collapse** – Most often when not properly constructed or maintained. They should be erected on solid ground with proper bracing and not modified during use.
- **Overloading** – Exceeding the capacity set by the manufacturer can also cause collapse.
- **Electrocution** – Live wires and overhead power lines present significant hazards.

2. How to Avoid Accidents

- **Assembly** – Find stable, level ground. Use base plates, mudsills and other necessary components that are in good condition. Check boards and platforms for support. Use ties and braces to prevent tipping.
- **Safe Access** – Equip scaffolds over 2 feet with a ladder, stairs, tower, etc. Refrain from climbing on cross-braces or using makeshift platforms like boxes, pallets, concrete blocks, etc.
- **Fall Protection** – Use guardrails or fall-arrest systems on scaffolding over 10 feet with a 42-inch minimum for top rails and mid-rails halfway between the platform and top rail. Install toe boards and netting to avoid falls.
- **Load Limits** – Never exceed the capacity set by the manufacturer, which includes employees and materials combined.
- **Falling Objects** – Use toe boards, debris nets and canopies to safely move tools and materials.
- **Housekeeping** – Keep platforms free of tools and materials to avoid trips, falls and overloading.
- **Weather Conditions** – Never use scaffolds during inclement weather such as high winds, rain or snow. Remove platforms covered with snow or ice from service.
- **Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)** – Utilize safety equipment including helmets, harnesses, non-slip footwear, etc.
- **Inspections** – Trained employees should check scaffolds regularly, ideally daily pre-shift and after any incident that could affect stability.
- **Tagging** – Use a color-coded tagging system to indicate the scaffold condition (green = safe, red = unsafe).
- **Supervision** – Always have an experienced employee to oversee assembly, modification and dismantling.

Sources:

1. <https://www.osha.com/blog/preventing-falling-accidents-from-scaffolding>
2. https://oshatraining.com/wp-content/uploads/OSHA_Training_Toolbox_Talk_-_Basic_Scaffold_Safety_-_Work_Platform_Safety.pdf

