Supported Scaffold Safety
Recommendations for staying above injuries

Construction workers using scaffolds are at risk of falling each time they step onto the platform. To ensure your safety on the job site, consider the following inspection and injury prevention tips.

• Inspect scaffolds and their parts before each work shift and after any incident that may have damaged the structure.

• Check that power lines near scaffolds are de-energized, or place the scaffolds, tools and materials at least 10 feet away from them if you are unsure.

• Verify that the scaffold is the correct type for the load, materials, number of workers and weather conditions.

• Check that footings are level, sound, rigid and capable of supporting the loaded scaffold.

• Check that legs, posts, frames and uprights are on base plates and mudsills.

• Check metal components for bends, cracks, holes, rust, welding splatter, pits, broken welds and non-compatible parts.

• Check for safe access. You should not use the cross braces as a ladder access or exit.

• Check wooden planks for cracks, splits greater than ¼ inch, long end splits, many large loose knots, warps greater than ¼ inch, boards and ends with gouges, mold, separated laminate(s) and grain sloping greater than one in 12 inches from the long edge in scaffold grade lumber or equivalent.

• If the planks deflect 1/60 of the span of 20 inches in a 10-foot wooden plank, the plank has been damaged and must not be used.

• Check that planks are close together, with spaces no more than one inch around the uprights.

• Check that 10-foot or less planks are 6 to 12 inches over the center line of support, and that 10-foot or longer planks are no more than 18 inches over the end.

• Check that the platform is 14 inches or more away from the wall or 18 inches or less away, if plastering.

• Check for guardrails and mid-rails on platforms where work is being done.

• Check for other coworkers under the platform. Make sure that hard hats are worn.

• Use braces, tie-ins and guying as described by the scaffold’s manufacturer at each end, vertically and horizontally to prevent tripping.

Be safe and healthy on the job with these helpful tips provided by Cool Insuring Agency, Inc. and New York Electrical Contractors Association Inc.

“Falls are one of the leading causes of injury for the construction industry.”

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