

### TOOLBOX TALK 34/60

#### TOPIC: SCAFFOLDS

#### OBJECTIVE: TO ENSURE THAT SCAFFOLDS ARE CONSTRUCTED SAFELY

Over one-third of the serious injuries to workers in the building trades are caused by falls from one level to another. These accidents usually occur because someone is working or standing on an unsafe surface (a makeshift scaffold) or using a scaffold incorrectly or working on one that hasn't been put up properly.

#### **THEY MAY SEEM SAFE BUT THEY CAN BE VERY DANGEROUS.**

#### **✗ Makeshift scaffolds should not be used and are made of things such as:**

- Concrete blocks
- Boxes
- Buckets
- Piles of scrap material
- Poorly supported wooden planks
- Machinery

#### **✓ Rolling Scaffold**

- They should only be used on a level surface.
- The height should not exceed 4 times the minimum base dimension, unless guyed or equipped with outriggers.
- Decking should be full width and secured against displacement.
- They should have guardrails, mid rails and toe boards.
- All casters should be locked except when the scaffold is being moved.
- No one should be on it while it is being moved.

#### **✓ Tubular Metal Scaffold**

- Should be tied to and braced against the structure at intervals, not to exceed 9m horizontally and 7.92m vertically.
- They should have guardrails, mid rails and toe boards.
- Screw jacks should be adjusted to plumb and level the scaffold.
- All cross bracing should be installed.
- Mudsills should be used on soft ground.
- Planks should be lapped not less than 30cm nor more than 46cm.
- Safe means of access should be provided – climbing cross bracing is dangerous.

#### DID YOU KNOW?

You can **capture checklists** and log **issues with scaffolding** using the HSEC Online® App.

Contact the HSEC Online® Support Team for assistance.



Don't be reactive, get proactive with HSEC Online®



Contact us for more information

