

Ensure safe scaffolding use during construction, from ground-up building to finishing and ongoing maintenance, in compliance with OSHA regulations (29 CFR 1926.451) and other applicable standards.

Scaffolding is critical for tasks like masonry, framing, exterior finishing, and maintenance in construction projects. Unsafe scaffolding practices can lead to falls, collapses, or struck-by hazards, which are among OSHA's "Fatal Four" leading causes of construction fatalities. This talk focuses on safe scaffolding practices to protect workers from ground-up construction through project completion and maintenance.

### Key Safety Points:

#### Erection and Setup (Ground-Up Phase):

- **Qualified Person Oversight:** Scaffolding must be designed, erected, and dismantled under the supervision of a competent person (OSHA 1926.451(a)). Ensure they verify load capacities and structural integrity.
- **Stable Foundations:** Set scaffolds on firm, level ground with base plates and mud sills to prevent tipping or settling. Avoid unstable surfaces like loose dirt or debris.
- **Proper Assembly:** Follow manufacturer specifications. Use only compatible components and ensure all braces, ties, and guardrails are installed correctly.

#### Safe Use During Construction (Building and Finishing Phases):

- **Guardrails and Fall Protection:** Install guardrails, midrails, and toeboards on all open sides of platforms over 10 feet (OSHA 1926.451(g)). Workers must use personal fall arrest systems (PFAS) if guardrails are not feasible.
- **Access:** Provide safe access with ladders, stair towers, or ramps. Never climb scaffold frames unless specifically designed for it.
- **Load Limits:** Do not exceed the scaffold's maximum weight capacity. Account for workers, tools, and materials. Overloading can cause collapse.
- **Housekeeping:** Keep platforms clear of debris, tools, and materials to prevent tripping or falling objects (OSHA 1926.25).

### Inspection and Maintenance (Ongoing and Post-Construction):

- **Daily Inspections:** A competent person must inspect scaffolds before each shift and after any event (e.g., high winds, impacts) that could affect stability (OSHA 1926.451(f)(3)).
- **Maintenance:** Regularly check for damaged components (e.g., bent frames, cracked welds). Replace or repair immediately. Ensure scaffolds remain plumb and level during maintenance work.
- **Tagging System:** Use a scaffold tagging system (green for safe, red for unsafe) to communicate inspection status.

### Training and Awareness:

- All workers using scaffolds must be trained on hazards, safe use, and emergency procedures (OSHA 1926.454). Training should cover fall protection, load limits, and recognizing defects.
- Stay aware of changing conditions, like weather or nearby equipment, that could impact scaffold safety.

### Regulatory Compliance:

- Adhere to OSHA 1926.451 standards for scaffold construction, access, and fall protection.
- Follow ANSI/ASSP A10.8 standards for additional scaffolding safety guidelines.
- Ensure compliance with local regulations, such as state-specific OSHA plans, if applicable.

### Discussion Questions:

- Have you noticed any scaffold issues (e.g., missing guardrails, unstable platforms) on this site?
- What steps do you take to ensure your scaffold is safe before starting work?
- How can we improve our inspection or tagging process?

Safe scaffolding practices are essential from the ground-up phase through finishing and maintenance. Always inspect, use proper fall protection, and follow load limits to prevent accidents and comply with OSHA regulations.

## Safe Scaffolding Practices



Report any scaffold hazards to your supervisor immediately. Safety is everyone's responsibility, let's keep it first!

*Note:* For site-specific scaffold requirements or additional regulations, consult your safety officer, MSC Safety Solutions or refer to OSHA's eTool for Scaffolding ([www.osha.gov/etools/scaffolding](http://www.osha.gov/etools/scaffolding)).



**Safety Meeting  
Sign-Off Sheet**

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Job Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Competent Person Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Competent Person Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Topic: Safe Scaffolding Practices**

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<b>Attendees:</b>	