



RISK MANAGEMENT ADVISORY
Utica National Insurance Risk Management Department Bulletin

Construction Series

Think Safety!

Scaffolding

Business Case

An estimated 2.3 million construction workers – or 65 percent of the construction industry – frequently work on scaffolds. Protecting these workers from scaffold-related accidents would prevent 4,500 injuries and 50 deaths every year, savings American employers \$90 million in lost workdays.

Hazard

When scaffolds are not erected or used properly, fall hazards are more likely to occur.

Solutions

- Scaffold must be sound, rigid and sufficient to carry its own weight plus four times the maximum intended load without settling or displacement. It must be erected on solid footing.
- Unstable objects, such as barrels, boxes, loose bricks or concrete blocks, must not be used to support scaffolds or planks.
- Scaffold must not be erected, moved, dismantled or altered except under the supervision of a competent person.
- Scaffold must be equipped with guardrails, midrails and toe boards.
- Scaffold accessories such as braces, brackets, trusses, screw legs or ladders that are damaged or weakened from any cause must be immediately repaired or replaced.
- Scaffold platforms must be tightly planked with scaffold plank grade material or equivalent.
- A competent person must inspect the scaffolding and, at designated intervals, reinspect it.
- Rigging on suspension scaffolds must be inspected by a competent person before each shift and after any occurrence that could affect structural integrity to ensure that all connections are tight and that no damage to the rigging has occurred since its last use.

The information contained in this publication has been developed from sources believed to be reliable. It should not, however, be construed or relied upon as legal advice and Utica National accepts no legal responsibility for its correctness or for its application to specific factual situations.



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- Synthetic and natural rope used in suspension scaffolding must be protected from heat-producing sources.
- Employees must be instructed about the hazards of using diagonal braces as fall protection.
- Scaffolds can be accessed by using ladders and stairwells, and must be at least 10 feet from electric power lines.


The OSHA hyperlink to their E-tool box offering much more detail is:

<http://www.osha.gov/SLTC/etools/scaffolding/>

Recommended use:

- New hire training and orientation.
- Periodic tool box meetings.
- Pre-job Planning.
- Job Safety Analysis.
- Accident Investigation.

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