



# SCAFFOLD SAFETY



## Introduction:

### Why are we talking about scaffold safety?

- ✓ Today, we will start this tailgate training by showing a video about Hans Petersen. Hans was a junior solar installer, and he died after he fell 45 feet off the roof of a three-story apartment building. After the video we will talk about why Hans fell. While the video is about working safely on a rooftop, we are going to be talking about some lessons to be applied regarding scaffold safety on this jobsite.
- ✓ Falls are the leading cause of construction worker injury and death.
- ✓ Falls are not only deadly but can cause serious injuries that result in many days off work or long-term disabilities.

**Show Video:** *CDPH/FACE: Preventing Falls in the Solar Industry* (5-6 min)

### QUESTIONS TO ASK THE CREW AFTER SHOWING THE VIDEO:

1. In the video, Hans is on the roof checking the alignment of mounting rails without wearing any personal fall protection equipment. How often do you see workers on roofs without fall protection?
2. While Hans was walking backwards, what are the main reasons he fell off the roof?
3. Have you or someone you know ever had a serious fall? Can you tell us about it?

#### ***Let's talk about safety on scaffolding on this jobsite:***

4. Although the video explains how to prevent falls from a roof, what are some of the same lessons to be applied regarding scaffold safety at our jobsite? When must scaffolding be provided?
5. **Ask the crew:** Are there any problems with scaffold safety on our jobsite? How can they be solved?



## SAFETY BREAK



## → Key training points *(taught best through demonstration)*

- Scaffolds must be provided for work that cannot be done safely by employees standing on ladders or on solid construction that is at least 20 inches wide.
- Scaffolds must have a safe way to access, for example, internal stairs or ladders built into or attached to the frame. Do not climb the scaffold framing.
- Climb ladders carefully. Remember to use three-point climbing on ladders—always have two hands and a foot, or two feet and a hand on the ladder. Never carry anything in your hands when climbing.
- Maintain guardrails on all open sides and platform ends. In two-thirds of scaffold injuries or deaths, guardrails were missing.
- Make sure there are no holes or gaps in the platform. All platforms must be fully planked from side to side.
- Scaffolds should be inspected regularly by a qualified person. A good scaffold:
  - ✓ Has stable and firm footing - at least 2x10x10 inch wooden bases when set on soil.
  - ✓ Is straight, level, square, and rigid in all directions. Must have diagonal bracing.
  - ✓ Is secured to the building with strong tie-ins. Use double looped #12 wire or single-looped #10 wire.
  - ✓ Has sturdy guardrails on all open sides and ends.
  - ✓ Has a top rail at least 42 to 45 inches above the platform with a midrail.
  - ✓ Has toe boards at least 4 inches high and placed at any edges where persons work or pass under.
  - ✓ Is fully planked with 2x10 structural planks in good condition. Planks must extend over supports by at least 6 inches but no more than 18 inches.
  - ✓ Has no more than 16 inches between building and plank and 10 inches at back of plank.

### **AFTER THE TRAINING, EMPLOYER ACTIONS TO TAKE:**

Example: Climb and walk the scaffold you are using on a daily basis, especially with multiple subs on the job.

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

### **AFTER THE TRAINING, SAFE WORK PRACTICES THAT WORKERS CAN DO:**

Example: Make sure the top rails are securely attached before putting your weight against them.

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_