

## Things to Do Before Training

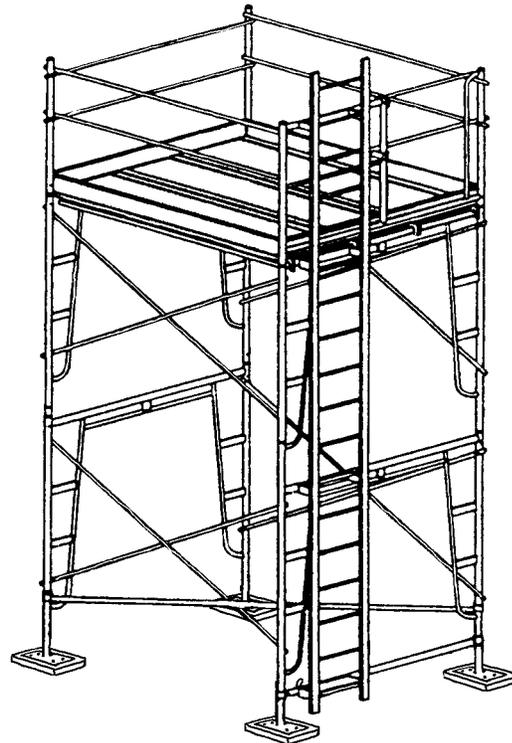
- ▶ Be ready to discuss where scaffolding is used or will be used on the job site.
- ▶ Make sure your company has a qualified person to work with the scaffolding company.
- ▶ In the index of the **Cal/OSHA Pocket Guide for the Construction Industry**, look up **Scaffolds** and read the pages listed.

## Introduction

Falls are the leading cause of death and serious injury in construction. 9% of construction deaths are scaffold-related.

While scaffolding takes time to put up and take down, it saves time once work starts.

Once scaffolding is up, it is important to inspect it daily to ensure that it is safe.



## QUESTIONS TO ASK

- ▶ Have you or someone you know had an injury related to scaffolding? What could have been done to prevent it?
- ▶ What should you look for when inspecting the scaffolding that you are working on?

SAFETY  BREAK

## ACTION TO TAKE

- ▶ Climb and walk the scaffold you are using or going to use. Check for: sound foundation and footing, tie-ins, square alignment with diagonal bracing, complete guardrails, full planking, and safe access.

## Key Points to Keep in Mind

- Use stairs or ladder.** Scaffolds must have safe access: 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 ends.** Complete guardrailing is very important; this includes the ends of the platforms. In two-thirds of scaffold injuries or deaths, guardrails were missing.
- No platform holes or gaps.** All platforms must be fully planked from side to side.
- Scaffolds should be inspected regularly by a qualified person.** A good scaffold:
  - Must have stable and firm footing: at least 2x10x10 inch wooden bases when set on soil.
  - Must be straight, level, square, and rigid in all directions. Must have diagonal bracing.
  - Must be secured to the building with strong tie-ins.
  - Must have sturdy guardrails on all open sides and ends. Top rail must be 42 to 45 inches above the platform.
  - Must be 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.