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Weekly Toolbox Talk

Scaffolding Safety

Never use any scaffolds that do not meeting the following requirements, and report any deficiencies to your supervisor.

•The footing or anchorage for scaffolding shall be sound, rigid and capable of carrying at least four times the maximum intended load without settling or displacement.

•Unstable objects such as barrels, boxes, loose bricks, or concrete blocks shall not be used to support scaffolds or planks.

•For maximum strength always erect scaffolding plumb and level.

•Be sure to use all required bracing and accessories per engineer or manufacturer's instructions.

•Guardrails and toeboards shall be installed on all open sides and ends of scaffold platforms 10 feet or more above ground or floor level.

•Scaffolds 4 feet to 10 feet, with a platform less than 45 inches wide will have guardrails installed on all open sides and ends.

•Where persons are required to work or pass under any scaffold, a mesh screen shall be provided between the toeboard and the top guardrail.

•Where planks are overlapped on scaffold platforms, they shall not overlap less than 12 inches and be secured to prevent movement.

- •Planks shall not extend over the end supports less than 6 inches or more than 12 inches.
- •The maximum permissible span for planking used for scaffold platforms is 10 feet.

•Tiered scaffolds erected adjacent to any structure shall be secured and braced to that structure at intervals not to exceed 30 feet horizontal and 26 feet vertically.

•Free-standing mobile scaffold towers shall not be higher than four times the maximum base dimension.

- •Outriggers may be used to increase the base dimension and provide stability to the tower.
- •Wheels and casters on mobile scaffolds shall be provided with locking devices.
- •Locking devices shall be set when the scaffold is in use.
- •Overhead protection shall be provided for employees on scaffolds exposed to overhead hazards.
- •An access ladder or equivalent safe access shall be provided for all scaffolds.
- •Use a tag line when hoisting materials from a scaffold.
- •Keep scaffold platforms clean to prevent trips and slips.
- •Never work on scaffolds during storms or high winds.