

SAFETY TALK



SCAFFOLDING

Scaffold is a temporary structure used as a work platform on construction sites. Scaffolds are used while working at heights or in areas that would otherwise be difficult to access.

Scaffolds can pose serious risks if the proper precautions are not taken. Improper set up or use can result in serious or even fatal injuries.

What additional precautions should you take?

Preplanning and proper hazard controls will ensure the scaffold is assembled safely and used appropriately. A competent person is required to erect, inspect, and dismantle scaffolds.

A “competent person” is someone who is qualified because of that person’s knowledge, training and experience to do the assigned work in a manner that will ensure the health and safety of workers in the workplace. This person is knowledgeable about the provisions of the *Occupational Health and Safety Act* and the Regulations that apply to the assigned work.

Safe Scaffold Use

- Do not use damaged parts that affect the strength of the scaffold.
- Ensure workers are feeling well before working on the scaffold.
- Do not work from any part of the scaffold other than the platform.
- Ensure the scaffold meets the manufacturer’s specifications.
- Do not move the scaffold horizontally while workers are on it, unless it is a power elevated work platform.
- Ensure workers never erect, use, alter, or move scaffold within the minimum approach distance of overhead power lines.
- Do not work on scaffolds in bad weather or high winds.
- Workers should know the weight limits of the scaffold as to not over load them.
- Do not use ladders, boxes, barrels, or other makeshift materials to raise your work height while on a platform.
- Scaffolds must be clear of snow, ice, or other slippery materials.

How do I know if I am at risk?

Anyone assembling, dismantling, working on or near scaffold could be at risk of an injury, or incident, if proper safe work practices are not followed.

Hazards linked to scaffolds include:

- Collapse/Instability
- Falling objects
- Falls
- Electrical contact
- Guardrail and platform failure
- Unguarded access



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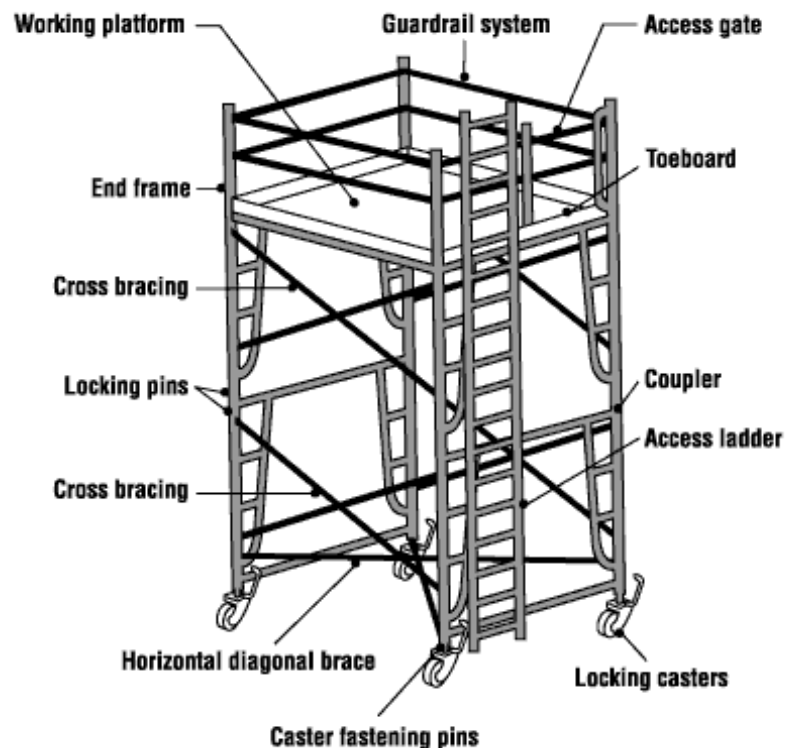
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At this worksite:

- While under the supervision of a competent person, erect and dismantle scaffolds as per manufacturer's specifications.
- Ensure finished floors are secure and capable of supporting the load for a scaffold or work platform and that they provide a stable base.
- Ensure scaffold design specifications are available on site at all times.
- Provide safe access to get on and off scaffolds and work platforms
- Ensure workers work within the framework of the scaffold.
- Only use appropriate accesses. Never step between scaffold systems or on the exterior of the system.
- Keep scaffolds and work platforms free of debris. Keep tools and materials as neat as possible to help prevent materials from falling and workers from tripping.

Discussion Topics:

- Has a competent person erected and inspected the scaffold on this worksite?
- Is the scaffold stable and strong enough for the load?
- What can you do to ensure you are working safely on or near the scaffold?
- What work tasks could be completed on the ground?
- Are the manufacturer's specifications on site?
- Are all three guardrails (top, mid and toeboard) in place at the work platform level?



For more information, please contact:
 Workers Compensation Board of PEI
 Phone 902-368-5697
 Toll Free 1-800-237-5049
wcb.pe.ca



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To report a serious workplace injury, contact the occupational health & safety line at 902-628-7513