

September 3, 2018

"For Safety's Sake - Do Something"



SSOE GROUP IS A PROJECT DELIVERY FIRM FOR ARCHITECTURE, ENGINEERING, AND CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT.

Scaffold Safety

Employees that need to utilize scaffolding must be trained by a Qualified Person to recognize and control (or minimize) the hazards associated with the type of scaffold being used. There are two different types of scaffolding: Supported scaffolds consist of one or more platforms supported by rigid, load-bearing members, such as poles, legs, frames, outriggers, etc. Suspended scaffolds are one or more platforms suspended by ropes or other non-rigid, overhead support.

In addition to hazard recognition training, safety while working on scaffolding relies heavily on the integrity of the scaffolding itself. Only a Competent Person is responsible for overseeing the erection and dismantling of all scaffolding, as well as performing daily inspections of the scaffold. The Competent Person will have been thoroughly trained in fall hazards, falling object hazards, electrical hazards, proper use of the scaffold, and handling of materials.

Scaffold inspection includes:

- Placement of scaffold relative to energized power lines.
- Verification that the correct scaffold is being used considering loads, materials, workers, and weather.
- Scaffold is structurally secure (footing, framing, plank integrity, plank placement, guardrails, etc.)
- Scaffold has safe access.
- Scaffold placement from structure.

Additional safety requirements include:

- Provision of falling object protection.
- Use of hard hats.
- Use of braces, tie-ins and guying as described by the scaffold's manufacturer at each end.
- Wheels on wheeled-scaffolding to be locked before being accessed.
- Guardrails are required on all sides of the working deck.
- Scaffold must be fully decked.

If you regularly use scaffolding or plan to use scaffolding as a part of your job, please visit the following link for detailed requirements: <https://www.osha.gov/SLTC/etools/scaffolding/index.html>