

SAFETY MEETING

Note: Our company conducts scheduled safety meetings to focus attention on one major safety topic per meeting. Should an employee have a question on any subject related to safety or job procedure, it will be addressed by the person conducting the meeting.

SCAFFOLDING

Scaffolding, by definition, is a temporary structure. Because scaffolding must support people and equipment at a raised elevation, certain precautions must be taken to protect the persons actually using the scaffold as well as those erecting and dismantling the scaffold and those on the ground near the scaffold. Failure to follow basic safety rules can lead to serious injury and/or death. Properly used, scaffolding provides an enormous benefit to job accomplishment. Improperly used, scaffolding can be deadly. All scaffolding shall be erected, moved, dismantled or altered under the supervision of a competent (by training or experience) person. Before using scaffolds, you must receive training that addresses the hazards associated with scaffold use, specifically:

- a. Electrical hazards.
- b. Fall hazards.
- c. Falling object hazards.

Additionally, prior to any scaffold use, you must receive training that explains:

- a. The correct procedures for dealing with the above hazards.
- b. The proper use of scaffolds and the proper handling of materials on the scaffold.
- c. The maximum intended load and the load-carrying capacities of the individual scaffolds being used.
- d. The availability of OSHA standards pertaining to scaffold use.

When working under a scaffold, hard hats are required, and, when working on a scaffold more than ten (10) feet above a lower level, fall protection must be provided. Guardrails and/or a personal fall arrest system are the most common types of fall protection, however, certain special types of scaffolds may require a unique type of fall protection such as a grabline. Fall **prevention** is equally important as fall **protection**. Accumulated debris, ice, high winds, overloading, improper erection, extending one's reach by standing on boxes or loose ladders, etc., all contribute to the strong possibility of falling.

Within the broad categories of suspended and supported scaffolds, there are many specific types of scaffolds -- each with its own limitations and special characteristics. Further, each job site has its own unique ground composition on which a supported scaffold is erected or unique attachment points for suspended scaffolds. Prior to using any scaffold, you will be instructed on any unusual or unique item of instruction that must be known about a specific circumstance. Of course, you are encouraged to ask your supervisor if you have any questions or concerns about the scaffold system you are using on a particular job site.