

CSDA Best Practice for Sawing and Drilling Operations

Title: Scaffold Safety Fact Sheet

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Scaffolding forms temporary structures to support people and material in the renovation or selective demolition of buildings and other structures. Serious injury or death can result if sawing and drilling contractors fail to comply with all applicable safety requirements when erecting, using or dismantling scaffolding.

GENERAL SCAFFOLD SETUP REQUIREMENTS:

1. Scaffolding must be erected by a competent person.
2. Scaffolding must be erected under the direction of a qualified person.
3. Scaffolding should be erected from matching components in good working condition. Damaged or mismatched components must not be used.
4. Scaffolding and its components must support, without failure, its own weight and at least four times the maximum intended load applied or transmitted to it. Additionally, scaffolding must not be loaded in excess of its intended rated capacities.
5. All footings should be sound and rigid. They should not be set on soft, muddy, frozen ground or resting on blocks. The poles, legs, posts, frames and uprights of the supported scaffold must bear on base plates and mud sills or other adequate firm foundations.
6. When positioning scaffolding, sawing and drilling contractors should consider various factors, including traffic, utilities, pedestrian traffic, work height availability and bracing needs.
7. Guardrails and toeboards should be installed on all open sides.
8. Work platforms should be complete, no less than 18 inches wide and not extend over the support by more than 6 inches. They should be fully decked with planks secured to the scaffolding.
9. Supported scaffolds with a height-to-base ratio of more than 4:1 should be restrained from tipping by bracing, tying or a similar method.
10. Scaffolding should have safe, complete access. Sawing and drilling contractors should not climb on cross braces.

SCAFFOLD USE:

1. Scaffolding must be inspected by a qualified person for visible defects before use and after any occurrence that could affect the structural integrity of the scaffold.
2. Check scaffolding for inspection tags that identify the status of the scaffold in accordance with OSHA regulation 1910.28, where a green tag = complete; yellow = incomplete; red = unacceptable or hazardous.
3. Personnel working on scaffolding must be trained in all safety procedures to control hazards. Employees must be trained by a qualified person to recognize and control the hazards associated with the type of scaffold being used. The training must include fall hazards, falling object hazards, electrical hazards, proper use of the scaffold and handling of materials.
4. Proper personal protective equipment like hard hats, safety glasses and work boots should be worn while working from scaffolding.
5. Sawing and drilling operators more than 10 feet above a lower level should be protected against falls by guardrails at least 38 inches high or a fall arrest system. Some facilities may require 100% fall protection while working on scaffolding, regardless of height.
6. No work should be done from scaffolding during high winds, rain or snow.
7. Do not ride scaffolding while it is being moved.
8. Before moving scaffolding, remove or secure core bits, saw blades or cutting equipment that may be on the scaffolding.
9. Cutting equipment and materials should be hoisted, not carried up.
10. A qualified person must evaluate the dismantling of scaffolding to determine a safe means of providing access and fall protection in the event of a collapse.