

TOOLBOX TALK #38

SUPPORTED SCAFFOLD INSPECTION

Inspect scaffolds and scaffold parts daily, before each work shift, and after any event that may have caused damage.

- ✓ Check to see if power lines near scaffolds are deenergized or that the scaffolds are at least 10 feet away from energized power lines.
- ✓ Make sure that tools and materials are at least 10 feet away from energized power lines.
- ✓ Verify that the scaffold is the correct type for the loads, materials, employees, and weather conditions.
- ✓ Check footings to see if they are level, sound, rigid and capable of supporting the loaded scaffold.
- ✓ Check legs, posts, frames, and uprights to see if they are on baseplates and mudsills.
- ✓ Check metal components for bends, cracks, holes, rust, weld splatter, pits, broken welds, and non-compatible parts.
- ✓ Check for safe access. Do not use the crossbraces as a ladder for access or exit.
- ✓ Check wooden planks for cracks, splits greater than ¼ inch, end splits that are long, many large loose knots, warps greater than ¼ inch, boards and ends with gouges, mold, separating laminate(s), and grain sloping greater than 1 in 12 inches from the long edge and are scaffold grade lumber or equivalent.
- ✓ If the planks deflect 1/60 of the span or 2 inches in a 10-foot wooden plank, the plank has been damaged and must not be used.
- ✓ Check to see if the planks are close together, with spaces no more than one inch around uprights.
- ✓ Check to see if 10-foot or shorter planks are 6 to 12 inches over the centerline of the support, and that 10-foot or longer planks are no more than 18 inches over the end.
- ✓ Check to see if the platform is 14 inches or less from the wall or 18 inches or less away if plastering/stucco work is being performed.
- ✓ Check for guardrails and midrails on platforms where work is being done.
- ✓ Check for employees under the platform and provide falling object protection or barricade the area. Make sure that hardhats are worn.
- ✓ Use braces, tie-ins, and guying as described by the scaffold's manufacturer at each end, vertically and horizontally to prevent tipping.

