TOOLBOX TALK #43

SUPPORTED SCAFFOLD INSPECTION TIPS

Inspect scaffolds and scaffold parts daily, before each work shift, and after any event that may have caused damage. Here are some things that OSHA requires you to check for before using any scaffold:

- Check to see if power lines near scaffolds are de-energized 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 cross braces as a ladder for access or exit.
- Check wooden planks for cracks, splits greater than a quarter inch, end splits that are long, many large loose knots, warps greater than ¼ inch, boards And ends with gouges, mold, separated 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.
- 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.