



## Scaffolds Fact Sheet

### What are scaffolds?

Scaffolds are temporary, elevated work platforms commonly used in construction activities. There are three basic types of scaffolding: supported, suspended and vehicle-mounted. Supported scaffolds consist of platforms held upright by rigid supports such as outrigger beams, frames, poles, posts or legs. Common types include fabricated frame and mobile scaffolds and pump or ladder jack scaffolds. Suspended scaffolds consist of platforms suspended by nonrigid, overhead supports such as rope or cable. Common types include single-point, two-point and multi-point adjustable suspension scaffolds, catenary scaffolds, needle beam scaffolds and float, or ship, scaffolds. Vehicle-mounted scaffolds are vehicles or machinery that have work platforms to elevate, rotate or otherwise support workers such as man lifts, personnel hoists, or aerial lifts (but does not include work platforms suspended by a crane or derrick, which are covered by a separate standard). Workers who use scaffolding can be divided into two groups: (1) erectors and dismantlers and (2) users. Both must be vigilant regarding safety issues.

### What are the hazards associated with working on scaffolds?

Common hazards associated with scaffolding include the following:

- Collapse of the scaffold caused by instability or overloading
- Electrical shock or electrocution from proximity to overhead power lines
- Falls from elevation due to lack of fall protection
- Struck-by falling tools, work materials or debris

### Are there occupational safety and health standards for scaffolds?

Yes, the following are standards OSH has adopted for scaffolds:

- **29 CFR 1910.28–.29** – general industry
- **29 CFR 1915 Subpart E** – shipyards
- **29 CFR 1926 Subpart L** – construction

Additionally, there are other OSH standards that have requirements for scaffolds.

### Where can I find additional information about scaffolds?

Please review our **Scaffold Subject Index** page ([link to new page](#))