
A Cooperative Effort

The Kahnawa:ke Department of Occupational Safety and Health along with Mohawk Self Insurance are working closely to reduce workplace injuries. Workplace injuries cost employers, employees, insurance providers and families thousands of dollars each year. By providing the tools through promoting safety, providing training and or training materials and continued safety awareness, together we can reduce workplace injuries.



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“Safety” Is No Accident



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Scaffold Safety



Got Scaffolding Get Trained

What is a Scaffold?



Scaffolding is a temporary structure used to support people or materials in construction of buildings or other large structures. They are also used in warehouses, supply stores, wholesale and factory outlets. There are many kinds of scaffolds which are categorized under three main types: Supported Scaffolds, Suspended Scaffolds and Aerial Scaffolds. Each year more than 50 people are killed by falls from scaffolds. The main causes of injuries and fatalities on scaffolds are poor planning for assembling and dismantling, missing tie-ins or braces, loads too heavy, being too close to power lines, inadequate or bad planking and guardrails. Falling objects can also hurt people below scaffolds. Scaffolds must be erected according to manufacturers' instructions and must comply with the applicable safety regulations and standards in your area.

Scaffold Safety Tips

Scaffolds are usually supported by posts, beams, legs, suspended by lines or wire rope. Depending on the type of scaffold you are using, always ensure that proper safety requirements are followed.

Supported or framed scaffolds must be able to support its own weight and at least 4 times the maximum intended load to be applied to it.

Keep scaffolds at least 10 feet or more away from energized power lines. Always check with your local power authority prior to working near power lines.

Unsafe scaffold in use



This scaffold has inadequate planking, missing braces no guardrails and should be tied into the structure

Inspect the scaffold set up after erection and daily while in use. Don't remove or allow removal of, any parts without the OK from the proper authorities.

Use base plates, sills or footers (or combination) on solid ground; make sure scaffold is leveled or plumbed.

Bent or otherwise damaged end frames or braces should not be used. Put them aside for replacement.

Never ride on a moving scaffold

Scaffolding should be tied to the structure using heavy wire or tie-in devices. Refer to applicable scaffold standards in your area for tie-in requirements.

If wood plank is used, it must be scaffold grade or better. Inspect thoroughly before every job to make sure it is free from breaks, knots, cracks or warpage. Decking should be full width and no more than a 1" inch gap between planks.

