

**Toolbox talks**

**Scaffolds**

**Background information:**

Fall continue to be the biggest cause of fatal injury in Britain's workplaces, with 34 of the 74 worker deaths in construction in 2007 / 2008 resulting from a fall from height. Falling objects are also a cause of many serious injuries and in some cases fatalities in the construction industry and whilst the numbers of this type of injury have reduced with the application of better controls and management and the mandatory wearing of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) (hard hats), they still occur.

**Hazards:**

- Falling through scaffolds
- Falling off scaffolds
- Falling objects
- Scaffold collapsing due to overloading
- Scaffold collapsing due to not being tied or braced properly.

**Health and safety points:**

- Only competent scaffolders with appropriate CISRS card are allowed to erect, alter or dismantle scaffolds
- Never remove or alter any part of a scaffold unless trained and authorised to do so
- Ensure that scaffolds are properly boarded (that means no gaps!) and fitted with guard-rails and toeboards appropriate to the loads and storage
- Report any defective scaffolding immediately. Defective means: toeboards missing, guard-rails missing, ladders too short, access ways blocked or the scaffold feels unstable
- Never use a scaffold whilst it is being erected, dismantled or in any way incomplete. Obey the warning notices – they are for your protection
- Do not overload a scaffold. Know how much material the scaffold can support. The scafftag will include the safe working load of the scaffold
- Do not stack materials in such a way that they could fall over and injure work mates or the public below. If loose material is stacked on a scaffold, such as bricks, then brick guards should be fitted to the area where the bricks are stacked
- Never throw materials down from a scaffold. Unless a suitable 'drop-zone' has been planned and created
- Never jump from or climb a scaffold. Always use the safe access provided
- Ensure that any ladder used for access onto a scaffold is securely lashed and footed, that it raises about 1m above any landing place and that it is at an angle of approximately 1 out 4 up

**Question time:**

- Q Who is allowed to erect, dismantle or alter a scaffold?
- Q What height should a ladder extend above the landing?
- Q What should be in place when stacking loose materials above toe board height on a scaffold?

**Have you got any questions?**

Record questions on the attendance sheet.

**Safety reminder:**

**Remember falls are the Industry's biggest killer. Only use proper erected scaffold platforms.**

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