

Refractories | Engineering | Construction

Scaffolding & Aerial Lift Injury Prevention

Your Top 10 Safety Tips



WORKING SAFELY ON ELEVATED PLATFORMS

When constructed and used properly, scaffolding and aerial lifts provide a safe platform to complete work at heights or in areas that would otherwise be difficult to reach. However, unsafe use can result in accidents, serious injuries, and even death. Using these best practices along with proper safety equipment will prevent worker injuries while improving productivity.

YOUR TOP 10 SAFETY TIPS

- 1 Before use of an elevated work platform, daily inspections for defects are required to be performed by a “Competent Person”
- 2 Aerial lift inspections are required to be kept with the lift, while scaffold tags are required to be posted at every access to elevated levels:
 - Green – Scaffold is safe to use without restrictions
 - Yellow – Scaffold is safe to use with listed restrictions
 - Red – Scaffold is under construction or unsafe to use
- 3 To reduce the chance of falls from slipping, elevated surfaces must be kept free from loose debris and tools
- 4 Elevated work levels should only be accessed from stairs, ladders, or gates, and not by climbing on bracing, frames, cross members, or rails
- 5 Scaffolds should only be erected or modified by certified scaffold erectors
- 6 Protect workers below scaffolding and aerial lifts by using toeboards (3 1/2” high) to prevent objects from accidentally falling
- 7 Maintain 20 feet of minimum clearance between any elevated work and overhead electrical lines to avoid the risk of electrocution
- 8 Scaffolds and aerial lifts both require a solid footing. To ensure a level, firm surface, the ground beneath needs to be solid soil, asphalt, or concrete
- 9 Most collapsed platforms are the result of equipment striking the scaffold or lift, making it critical to establish a clear work zone around them
- 10 Refer to OSHA Standards 1926.451 and 1926.452, adopted in subpart L of part 1926 for additional requirements and guidelines

BONUS TIP: When on a scaffold or aerial lift, only tie off to designated anchor points and not to top and midrails that don’t offer proper support

60

SCAFFOLD RELATED
DEATHS PER YEAR

4500

SCAFFOLD INJURIES
PER YEAR

40%

FALLS FROM SLIPPING ON
ELEVATED SURFACES