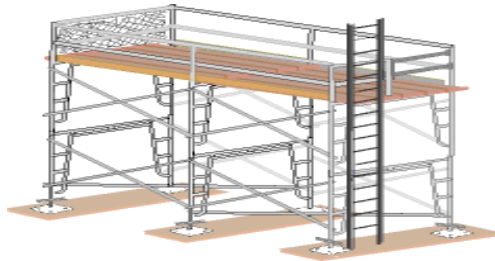


# TOOLBOX TALK

## FALL PROTECTION/SCAFFOLDING



The number one scaffold hazard is falls. Scaffolding fall protection may consist of either personal fall-arrest systems or guardrail systems, and must be provided on any scaffold 10 feet or more above a lower level. Specific requirements are described below.

### General:

- Each crew member on a scaffold more than 10 feet above a lower level must be **protected from falling** to the lower level.
- Fall protection may consist of either **personal fall arrest systems or guardrail systems** meeting OSHA requirements.
- Crew members performing **overhand bricklaying operations, or similar construction work**, from a supported scaffold must be protected from falling from all open sides and ends of the scaffold, except at the side next to the wall being laid.

### Guardrail Systems:

- Guardrail systems must be installed along all **open sides and ends of platforms**, and must be in place before the scaffold is released for use by employees other than erection/dismantling crews.
- **Walkways located within a scaffold** must have guardrail systems installed within 9½ inches of and along at least one side of the walkway.
- Each **toprail** or equivalent member of a guardrail system must be able to **withstand a force of at least 200 pounds** applied in any downward or horizontal direction, at any point along its top edge.
  - **The top edge height of toprails** on supported scaffolds must be between **36 inches and 45 inches**.
  - **When conditions warrant**, the height of the top edge **may exceed the 45-inch height**, provided the guardrail system meets all other criteria
  - **Midrails, screens, mesh, intermediate vertical members, solid panels**, etc., must be able to **withstand a force of at least 150 pounds** applied in any downward or horizontal direction, at any point along the midrail or other member.

When **midrails** are used, they must be **installed at a height approximately midway** between the top edge of the guardrail system and the platform surface.

### **Fall-Arrest Systems:**

- Personal fall-arrest systems used on scaffolds are to be **attached by lanyard to a vertical lifeline, horizontal lifeline, or scaffold structural member.**
- When vertical lifelines are used, they must be fastened to a **fixed safe point of anchorage, independent of the scaffold, and be protected from sharp edges and abrasion.** Safe points of anchorage include structural members of buildings, but not standpipes, vents, electrical conduit, etc., which may give way under the force of a fall..

#### **Erectors and Dismantlers**

- Productions are required to **provide fall protection for crew members** erecting or dismantling supported scaffolds where it is feasible, and where installing and using it does not create a greater hazard.

#### **Competent Person**

- The Production must designate a **competent person**, who is **responsible for determining the feasibility and safety** of providing fall protection for employees erecting or dismantling supported scaffolds.