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## **SIP-TIP: SCAFFOLD COLLAPSE PREVENTION**

Scaffolds are widely used in the construction industry for many purposes, with this in mind, listed are the top four most serious scaffold hazards, relating to scaffold collapse.

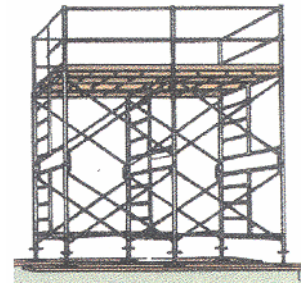
There are several reasons why a scaffold will collapse:

**Improper Foundations**

**Eccentric loads**

**Wind loads**

**Improperly supported**



Gaze at a few preventive measures to ensure that your scaffold will remain in place.

**Foundations** - Every structure built needs a solid foundation and scaffolding is no exception. The ground needs to be stable enough to support the weight of the intended load such as the scaffolding, tools, materials and personnel. Another key element for the scaffolding is the footing, such as base plates or mud sills. Base plates are required at all times where as the mud sills are required on all surfaces except concrete.

**Eccentric Loads** - This is a common problem with scaffolds such as using side brackets (out riggers) for material storage, or using the scaffold as a lifting device for which it **was not** designed. Side brackets are designed for personnel only. **Do not use a scaffold as a lifting device unless it was designed for that purpose by a qualified person.**

**Wind Loads** - Scaffold enclosures are a very serious problem when a strong wind arises, the best way to prevent scaffolds from an overturning to high winds is to properly secure the scaffold with guying, tying, bracing or equivalent means. Drawings designed by a qualified person can be used to aid in the erecting of this type of scaffold. **Do not deviate from those drawings.**

**Improperly Supported** - When scaffolds are erected higher than a four to one height to base ratio, the scaffold needs to be properly supported. This can be accomplished by tying, guying and bracing. The interval at which a scaffold needs to be secured is less than 20ft at the first point vertically, and at 26ft intervals until you get within 20ft from the top platform. **It is very poor practice to remove or omit any braces, ties or guy's.**

**REMEMBER: BUILD IT RIGHT, BUILD IT COMPLETE**

