



SAFETY INCENTIVE PROGRAM  
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## SIP TIP: **SCAFFOLD SAFETY**

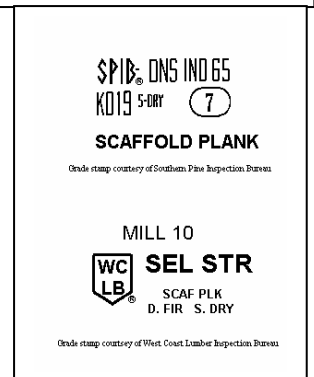
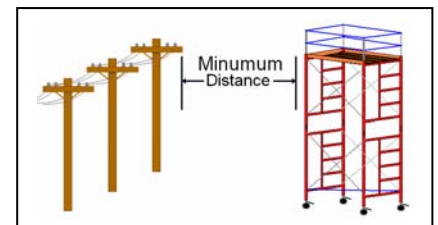
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### **Be Conscientious During Scaffold Construction and Use**

**According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, 68 of the 85 people that died from a fall from a scaffold in 2003 were employed in construction**

Scaffold collapses and falls from scaffold are absolutely preventable. The question is whether or not you are personally taking part in the process. Follow the procedures listed, and become a decision-maker when it comes to your life and the well-being of your co-workers:

1. Someone who has knowledge of and experience with the specific type of scaffold being erected must supervise the entire erection process. The people who erect, disassemble, move, operate, repair, maintain, and inspect scaffolds must be trained by a **competent person**, and the scaffold must be inspected prior to use each day by the **competent person**.
2. People who perform work on scaffolds must be trained by a person **qualified** in the subject matter.
3. Watch carefully for sources of electrical power while erecting and dismantling scaffolds and avoid any contact with these sources. Ask your supervisor for clearance distances.
4. Inspect each and every part of the scaffold as it goes up. Discard any defective parts in such a way that others will not use them.
5. Place scaffold legs, posts, polls, frames or uprights on base plates. In addition, use mud sills if the foundation is not firm (asphalt is not firm!!)
6. Check the planking to be sure it is scaffold grade (will be marked as such), and that all working levels are fully planked between the uprights.
7. **WIND** can cause a significant amount of stress on a scaffold and its ability to keep standing. Make sure a qualified person is involved if winterization (wrapping) is required.
8. Avoid overloading the scaffold with materials and equipment by bringing up with you only those items that you need right away.
9. Keep in mind that a scaffold must be capable of supporting its own weight plus four times the maximum intended load. If anything you see indicates that a scaffold won't do this, stop the process and tell your Supervisor immediately.
10. If the scaffold is more than four times higher than the minimum width of the base, it must be kept from tipping by tying, bracing or guying. There are specific requirements for this, so ask your Supervisor.
11. When working on a scaffold more than 10-feet from a lower level, use fall protection such as guardrails and/or personal fall arrest systems (just like those used in other applications). And remember, if a project requires fall protection at the 6-foot level in all cases, that's the rule on the scaffold as well.
12. When access ladders are not a permanent part of the scaffold, make sure the portable access ladder extends at least 3 feet above the platform and secure it from slipping. Cross braces are not to be used as a ladder to climb up or down the scaffold.



**REMINDER: KNOW WHAT YOU'RE WORKING ON! IT COULD SAVE YOUR LIFE!**