Preventing Falls From Scaffolding

When scaffolds are not upright or used properly, falls can occur. Protecting workers from scaffoldrelated accidents would prevent many deaths and more than 4,000 injuries each year.

TOOLBOX

Here is an Example

CPWR

THE CENTER FOR CONSTRUCT

Willie, a construction worker, fell 20 feet from an unsecured scaffold. He had been helping to install metal frames on the outer wall of a residential building when the accident happened. The leaning scaffold was not tied off and had been moving away from the building while Willie was working. He fell to the ground, hitting his head on the second story, and died.

- 1. Why did this tragedy happen? How could it have been prevented?
- 2. Have you ever had an injury due to falling from scaffolding, or have you heard of anyone who has fallen from scaffolding?
- 3. If so, what happened?

Preventing Falls from Scaffolding

- Provide an access ladder.
- Only use scaffold-grade lumber.
- Install guardrails and toeboards on all scaffolding 10 or more feet above the ground.
- Make sure the scaffold is able to support four times the maximum intended load (including the weight of the scaffold).
- Make sure the scaffold is level by using screw jacks on base plates and mudsills.
- Keep scaffold within 14 inches of the building.

What Are We Going to Do Today?

What will we do here at the worksite today to prevent injuries from scaffolding?

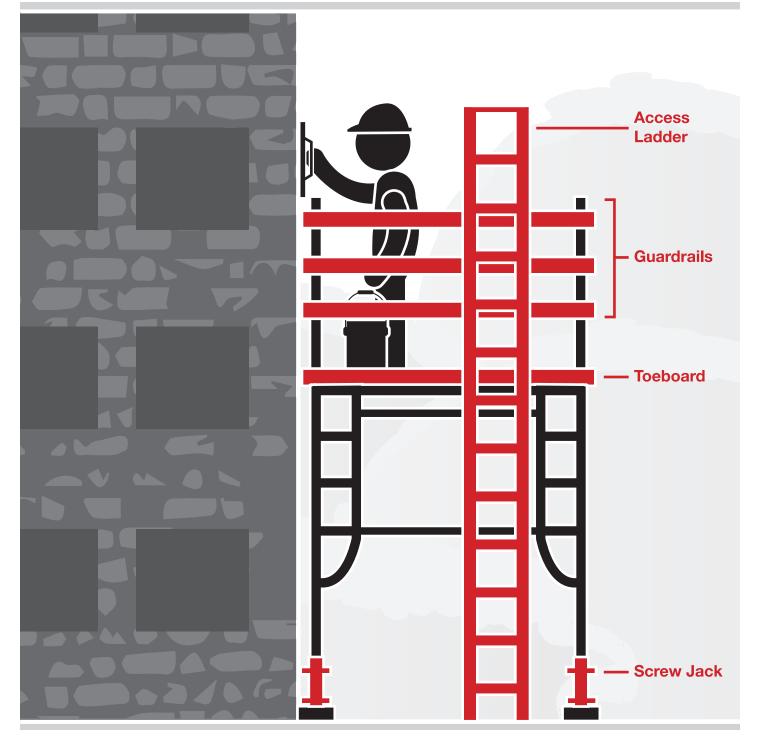
2	1.	
3	2.	
	3.	
OSHA REGULATIONS: 1926.451		OSHA REGULATIONS: 1926.451

©2013, CPWR – The Center for Construction Research and Training. All rights reserved. CPWR is the research, training, and service arm of the Building and Construction Trades Dept., AFL-CIO, and works to reduce or eliminate safety and health hazards construction workers face on the job. Production of this card was supported by Grant OH009762 from the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH). The contents are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of NIOSH. **www.cpwr.com**





Preventing Falls From Scaffolding



- Provide an access ladder.
- Install guardrails and toeboards on all scaffolding 10 or more feet above the ground.
- Make sure the scaffold is level by using screw jacks on base plates and mudsills.