

TOOLBOX TALKS

Focus Four Fall Hazards Toolbox Talk #2



Preventing Falls From Scaffolding

[Ask the following questions and give time for answers.]

What are the hazards? Falls due to working on scaffolding

What are the results? Broken bones, head injuries, internal damage, death

What should we look for? Unleveled scaffold, improper base, inadequate access, not fully planked, use of baker scaffolds, fall protection, power lines, workers on guardrails.

[Here is an example or use one from your own experience]

Silver Springs, MD on April 10, 2012: An employee was killed after falling more than 90 feet off a building under renovation. The employee was working on the apartment balcony from a twin tower mast-climbing work platform. The employee was scrapping the old paint at the 10th floor balcony when he fell to the ground through the space adjacent to the mast tower. At the time of the incident, the deceased was not tied to any lifeline.

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? If so, what happened? **And what were the contributing factors?**

Did You Know: When scaffolds are not upright or used properly, falls can occur. Protecting workers from scaffold-related accidents **would prevent many deaths and more than 4,000 injuries each year.**

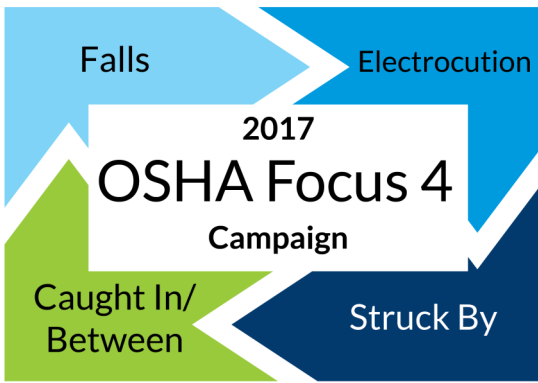
Source: IUOE National Training Fund

Source: INVESTIGATION OF THE MAST-CLIMBING WORK PLATFORM INCIDENT AT BLAIR HOUSE, SILVER SPRING, MD - U.S. Department of Labor Occupational Safety and Health Administration Directorate of Construction October 2012



OSHA and our construction industry partners, such as the Mid-Atlantic Construction Safety Council, have initiated a **“Focus Four Hazards”** campaign throughout OSHA’s Region III’s jurisdiction. The goal of this campaign is to raise awareness in the recognition, evaluation, and control of these hazards. Focus Four Hazards account for the vast majority of injuries and fatalities in the construction industry.





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Preventing Falls From Scaffolding (continued)

Know who the Competent Person for Scaffolding is for your work and assure that he/she is performing all required inspections, which includes at least a **DAILY** pre-work inspection.

- Provide an access ladder. Typically, the only endrails that you are allowed to use for access have square or rectangular openings.
- Make sure lumber is scaffold-grade when using wooden planking.
- Install guardrails and toe-boards on all scaffolding 10 or more feet above the ground.
- Make sure the scaffold is able to support 4 times the maximum intended load (including the weight of the scaffold). This includes workers, materials, and tools.
- Make sure the scaffold is level by using screw jacks on base plates and mudsills. Remember, base plates must ALWAYS be used, and mudsills must be used when the Competent Person determines that they are necessary to assure an adequate foundation.

[Record questions below that you want to ask about this site and share them with the appropriate parties.]

Did You Know: Since October 8, 2016, there have been 8 fatalities involving employees falling from scaffolding.

Source: IUOE National Training Fund

Source: INVESTIGATION OF THE MAST-CLIMBING WORK PLATFORM INCIDENT AT BLAIR HOUSE, SILVER SPRING, MD - U.S. Department of Labor Occupational Safety and Health Administration Directorate of Construction October 2012



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