Scaffold User Training

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Browse the web under the search heading “Scaffold Accidents and Fatalities” and this title pops up “Victim of a scaffolding Accident? Contact a Lawyer.” (Copyright, Construction-injuries.com). Check the web site of the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) under Fatality Assessment and Control Evaluation (FACE) and you will find numerous incidents of fatalities from scaffolds ranging from falls of 10 feet to those of over 60 feet. In many instances the falls resulted from improperly constructed scaffolds, poorly maintained scaffolds, improper supervision and lack of adequate training. (NIOSH, FACE Program at www.cdc.gov/niosh/face/)

Lack of training, too is often cited by OSHA as a source of accidents in many aspects of construction. It is particularly important when dealing with scaffolds. The State of California requires training on scaffolds an 8 CCR1509 under the general duty to provide training on hazards. The Federal OSHA Program requires more specific training on scaffolds including electrical exposures, scaffold loading, fall protection and falling object protection. (29CFR 1926.454 Below)

I. The Employer shall have each employee who performs work while on a scaffold trained by a person qualified in the subject matter to recognize the hazards associated with the type of scaffold being used and to understand the procedures to control and minimize those hazards.

II. Training shall include the following areas: [1926.454 (a)]

1. Nature of any electrical hazards, fall hazards and falling object hazards in the work area.
2. The correct procedures for dealing with electrical hazards and for erecting, maintaining and disassembling the fall protection systems and falling object protection systems being used.
3. The proper use of the scaffold and the proper handling of materials on the scaffold
4. The maximum intended load and the load-carrying capacities of the scaffold used; and any other pertinent requirements of this sub-part.

Continued
III. Each employee who is involved in erecting, disassembling, moving, operating, repairing, maintaining, or inspecting a scaffold shall be trained by a competent person to recognize any hazards associated with the work in question. The training shall include the following topics, as applicable:

[1926.454 (b)]

1. The nature of scaffold hazards
2. The correct procedures for erecting, disassembling, moving, operating, repairing, inspecting, and maintaining the type of scaffold in question
3. The design criteria, maximum intended load-carrying capacity and intended use of the scaffold
4. And any pertinent requirements

IV. Topics to be covered:

1. Definition and duties of “qualified” and “competent persons”
   a. “Qualified” vs. “competent”
   b. Documentation of employee experience and training
   c. Duties of “competent person”
   d. Employers responsibilities in designating “competent persons”

2. Scaffold Hazards—general
   a. Site inspection and hazard assessment
   b. Pre-job and pre-shift inspection of scaffold
   c. Competent persons responsibility to inspect scaffold
   d. Authority of competent person to make scaffold safe

3. Electrical Hazards
   a. Nature of electrical hazards on scaffolds
   b. Types of electrical hazards
   c. Grounding, lightning rods and protective equipment
   d. Inspection of electrical equipment

4. Correct procedures for erection, dismantling, moving and modifying scaffold
   a. Different types of scaffolding
   b. Training requirements for specific types of scaffold
   c. Competent person trained to specific type of scaffold
   d. Inspection requirements

5. Scaffold Load Capacities
   a. Light, medium and heavy duty
   b. Platform ratings
   c. Manufacturers guidelines
   d. Posting requirements

6. Fall Hazards
   a. Duty to have fall protection
   b. Types of fall protection
   c. Guard rail systems
   d. Personal fall protection systems
   e. Fall protection plan
   f. Training requirements

7. Falling Object Protection
   a. Requirement for falling object protection
   b. Toeboards
   c. Netting
   d. Canopies: loading requirements and Uniform Building Code

8. Retraining: When to retrain

Your company’s best line of defense against scaffold accidents and Cal/OSHA citations is a properly trained workforce. Training should meet the guidelines outlined here. For additional information contact Bob Downey at redowney@pacbell.net or Steve Phetteplace at scaffoldman@earthlink.net