

OSHA Training Toolbox Talk: Basic Scaffold Safety – Using Manually Propelled Mobile Scaffolds

[Reference 1910 Subpart D / 1926 Subpart L]

Using a mobile scaffold can make it much easier to relocate the scaffold as work progresses. But they also present unique hazards when compared to stationary scaffolds. So, here are some very important OSHA regulations to follow when we utilize manually-propelled mobile scaffolds:

- Mobile scaffolds must be braced by cross, horizontal, or diagonal braces, or by a combination of these, to prevent racking or collapse of the scaffold, and to secure vertical members together laterally so as to automatically square and align the vertical members. Scaffold frames must be plumb, level, and squared, and all connections must be securely fastened.
- Platforms shall not extend outward beyond the base supports of the scaffold unless outrigger frames or equivalent devices are used to ensure stability.
- Where leveling of the scaffold is necessary, screw jacks or equivalent means shall be used.
- Caster and wheel stems must be pinned or otherwise secured with approved devices to the scaffold legs or adjustment screws.
- Scaffold casters and wheels must be locked with positive wheel locks, or positive wheel and swivel locks, or equivalent means, to prevent movement of the scaffold while it is being used in a stationary position.
- Move the scaffold by pushing it laterally as close to the base as practicable, but not more than 5 feet above the ground or supporting surface. NEVER try to reposition a mobile scaffold by pulling on joists, rafters, or other structures while standing on top of the scaffold platform.
- Scaffolds shall be stabilized as necessary to prevent tipping during movement.
- Employees MAY NOT ride on moving scaffolds unless ALL of the following conditions exist:
 - The surface on which the scaffold is being moved must be within 3 degrees of level, and free of pits, holes, and other obstructions which impede lateral movement of the scaffold;
 - The base-width to height ratio of the scaffold during movement must be two-to-one or less, unless the scaffold is designed and constructed to meet or exceed nationally recognized stability test;
 - Outrigger frames, when used, must be installed on both sides of the scaffold;
 - No employee is allowed to stand on any part of the scaffold which extends outward beyond the wheels, casters, or other supports as the scaffold is being moved;
 - Before a scaffold is moved, each employee on the scaffold must be made aware of the move.

These are but a few important safety tips that can help us avoid accidents as we are working with manually-propelled mobile scaffolds. Can you think of some others that we should discuss today?

Thank you for your participation. Please make certain you sign your name on the training certification form so you get credited for attending today's toolbox training session.

