

SAFETY SENSE

Don't Fall Down On The Job: OSHA Rules Protect People Who Work In High Places

(NAPSA)—The next time you look up and see workers on a scaffold, give a nod of thanks to the people who created the rules to protect them from falling: the U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety & Health Administration (OSHA).

About 300,000 workers are injured and about 800 workers die each year from falls. Of those, 3,900 are injured and 90 die from falls from scaffolds. Those statistics can and must improve—and OSHA has rules to help make that happen.

OSHA's rules that protect workers from falling from construction scaffolding call for:

- Training any employee who performs work while on a scaffold,
- Fall protection for heights over 10 feet,
- Scaffolding suited to the job with extra safety factors built in,
- Installation, moving or dismantling supervised by a qualified person, and
- Safe access for workers via a ladder or equivalent means.

These safety rules are for all kinds of scaffolds, including job-built wood scaffolds and tubular steel platform scaffolding.

To safeguard workers, OSHA fall protection requirements focus on both human—and equipment-related issues. They require



Scaffold safety is no accident. There are safety rules both employers and employees must follow.

- employers and employees to:
- Select fall protection systems appropriate for the site,
 - Properly install and use safety systems,
 - Supervise employees,
 - Use safe work procedures, and
 - Train workers in how to select, use and maintain fall protection systems.

The Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 was created to ensure safe and healthful working conditions for working men and women in the nation. The Act covers seven million establishments and 114 million employees throughout the United States.