

Toolbox talk

Year-round

5 minutes

Scaffolding Toolbox Talk

Work only on scaffolds a competent person inspected this shift: fully planked, guardrails in place above 10 feet, proper access - never climb frames - and loads within rating.

READ ALOUD (ABOUT 5 MINUTES)

A scaffold is a structure we build, load, modify, and move - which means its condition yesterday tells us nothing about today. That is why a competent person inspects it before each shift and after anything changes.

Look for the green light basics before you climb: full planking with no gaps, guardrails and midrails at 10 feet and above, base plates on solid footing, tie-ins where the height requires them, and proper access - a ladder or stair, never the cross-braces.

Respect the load rating. Material staged on a platform counts against it. And if a plank, rail, or brace is missing, the scaffold is tagged and nobody is on it until it is fixed - a missing plank is a hole in the floor you are about to walk on.

INCIDENT EXAMPLE

A masonry crew removed two planks to pass block up through the scaffold and did not replace them before break. A finisher from another trade climbed up after break, stepped where the platform should have been, and fell one level onto the crew below.

CONTROLS TO COVER

- Competent person inspection before each shift and after changes.
- Full planking, guardrails, and toe boards where required.
- Access by ladder or stair only - never climb frames or braces.
- Keep platform loads, including staged material, within the rating.

CREW DISCUSSION

1. Who is the scaffold competent person today, and when was the last inspection?
2. What trades share this scaffold, and who checks it between trades?
3. Where is material staged on platforms, and is it within the load rating?

QUICK QUIZ

1. When must a scaffold be inspected?
By a competent person before each work shift and after anything changes.
2. Can cross-braces be used for access?
No. Use the designed ladder or stair access.
3. At what height do scaffold guardrails generally apply?
At platforms 10 feet or more above the level below.

Toolbox Talk Sign-In Sheet

Attendance record for the talk above. Reviewers (OSHA, GC, ISNetworld/Avetta) expect topic, date, presenter identity, and attendee signatures.

Project / location

Date and time

Topic: Scaffolding Toolbox Talk		Presenter (print)	Presenter signature
NAME (PRINT)	COMPANY / TRADE	SIGNATURE	

Concerns raised and follow-up actions (owner, due date)