## Tips on Scaffold Safety

The following safety tips are offered by the engineering department of Bil-Jax, Inc. as guidelines in avoiding job-site situations that could prove dangerous to scaffold workmen.

### Check Safety Codes:
OSHA, state and local safety codes should be consulted; and approval obtained from Building Safety and Industrial Commission on scaffold tips.

### Inspect and Check:
Take no chances. Inspect the scaffold set up after erection and daily while in use. Don’t remove or allow removal of, any parts without the OK from the proper authorities. When wire rope is used, inspect it on each job.

### Begin with Good Footing:
Use base plates, sills or footers (or combination) on solid ground; make sure scaffold is leveled or plumbed.

### Reject Damaged Parts:
Bent or otherwise damaged end frames or braces should not be used. Put them aside for replacement. For repair, call Bil-Jax, Inc.

### Don’t Short-Change Bracing:
Use bracing at all points provided; add extra braces if needed to insure stability.

### Tie Scaffold to the Building:
Scaffolding should be tied to the structure using heavy wire or tie-in devices. The first vertical tie should be at the maximum height of 4 times the narrowest base dimension. Additional ties are not to exceed 26 feet vertically. Maximum horizontal distance between ties is not to exceed 30 feet.

### Don’t Overload Scaffolding:
Follow the safe load capacities as given by the scaffold manufacturer. There’s a limit even to what steel can support. A 4-to-1 safety factor must be figured on scaffolding.

### Use Metal CatWalks, Platforms;
Where available. If wood plank is used, it must be scaffold grade or better. Inspect thoroughly before every job to make sure it is free from breaks, knots, cracks or warpage. Decking should be full width.

### Don’t Ride Moving Scaffold;
and remember scaffold units are limited in height to 4” times their narrowest base dimension (unless base is widened by outriggers, or more end frames; or tied into building.) Always keep casters locked. (except to re-spot)

*Exceptions: 3 times in CA, OH, OR, MT, ME.

### Don’t Climb Braces:
Use the steps provided on most steel scaffolds to climb up to or down from work levels. Use scaffold climbing ladders where required.

### Protect Working Levels:
Use overhead canopies to protect workers on lower work levels when work is being done overhead. Rope off unsafe areas underneath scaffold or provide wire mesh around work area.

### Use Double Guard Rails;
and toeboards on exposed sides at platform heights of 6 feet or more.

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### POST WHERE WORKMEN CAN SEE

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Do not use where user can come in contact with live power.

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SCAFFOLDING SAFETY GUIDELINES

It shall be the responsibility of all employers and employees to read and comply with the following common sense guidelines which are designed to promote safety in the erecting and dismantling of scaffolds. These guidelines do not purport to be all-inclusive nor to supplant or replace other additional safety and precautionary measures to cover unusual or unusual conditions. Local, State or Federal statute or regulations shall supersede these guidelines if there is a conflict and it is the responsibility of each employee to comply.

**GENERAL GUIDELINES**

I. POST THESE SCAFFOLDING SAFETY GUIDELINES in a conspicuous place and be sure that all persons who erect, dismantle or use scaffolding are aware of them.

II. FOLLOW ALL STATE, LOCAL AND FEDERAL CODES, ORDINANCES AND REGULATIONS pertaining to scaffolding because they may be more restrictive. For example, height or width requirements may vary.

III. SURVEY THE JOB SITE—A survey shall be made of the job site for hazards, such as unamended earth fills, ditches, debris, high tension wires, unguarded openings, and other hazardous conditions created by other trades. These conditions shall be corrected or avoided as noted in the following sections.

IV. INSPECT ALL EQUIPMENT BEFORE USING—Never use any equipment that is damaged or defective in any way.

V. KEEP ALL EQUIPMENT IN GOOD REPAIR—Avoid using corroded equipment—the strength of corroded equipment is not known. Specialist shall be made to secure vertical and longitudinal ties. Vertical ties shall be placed at intervals not greater than 20 feet. Longitudinal ties shall be placed at each end and at intervals not greater than 30 feet. Ties must prevent the scaffold from tipping into or away from the wall or structure.

V. ALWAYS USE EQUIPMENT FOR THE PURPOSES FOR WHICH IT WAS INTENDED.