GBCA SAFETY TOOLBOX TALKS

Scaffold-Use Safety

Every day, workers fall from heights when working on scaffolds, and when they do, many die from the fall, and those who survive are often crippled for the remainder of their lives. These tragedies are sometimes caused by faulty design or poor construction, but in most cases, **the cause is preventable**: poor scaffold maintenance or improper use.

Here are some quick reminders and tips on scaffold-use safety:

DO:

1. Check that the scaffold has adequate weight capacity for the job.
2. Inspect scaffolds for safety compliance before use.
3. LOOK for electrical hazards before setting up a scaffold.
4. Make sure work platforms are in good condition and clean.
5. **Use guardrails and personal fall protection equipment.**
6. Fully plank work platforms, **using scaffold rated planking**.
7. Secure planking so that they don't slip or move.
8. Place scaffolds close to the work area.
9. Place scaffolds on firm, level surfaces.
10. Anchor the scaffold when built higher than 4 widths.
11. Provide adequate access to the working levels.
12. Bring tools to the working level by raising them by rope.
13. Replace broken parts immediately.
14. Protect workers and passers-by. Tether tools to prevent falling objects. Remember that other people may be walking or working below the scaffold.

DON'T:

1. Overload the scaffold.
2. Use scaffolds near electrical hazards.
3. Use broken parts or planking.
4. Mix incompatible brands of scaffolds.
5. Build the scaffold too high without adequate lateral support.
6. Use unstable objects to support the scaffold base.
7. Climb on cross bracing.
8. Move a scaffold while occupied.
9. Use scaffolds during storms or high winds.

When in doubt, STOP and ASK before getting onto a scaffold.

REMEMBER: The fall you will survive is the one you don't have!