PennState Physical Plant

Program Highlights

SCAFFOLD SAFETY

SEPTEMBER 2019

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this program is to protect employees and prevent injuries associated with working on scaffolding. This program applies to all OPP Employees who perform work from scaffolding

TRAINING

Training must be completed prior to using or erecting scaffold. Training must include:

- Nature of any electrical hazards, fall hazards and falling object hazards in the work area
- The correct procedures for dealing with electrical hazards
- Procedures for erecting, maintaining, and disassembling scaffolding and the fall protection systems being used
- The proper use of the scaffold, and the proper handling of materials
- The maximum intended load and the load carrying capabilities of the scaffold
- The protocol regarding inspecting the scaffold
- Hands on scaffold erector training for any employee building scaffold

Refresher training is required when:

- An employee is observed using the scaffold in an unsafe manner
- An accident or a near-miss incident occurs
- Changes in the types of scaffold, fall protection, falling object protection, or other equipment present a hazard that an employee has not previously been trained on

INSPECTIONS

Scaffolds must undergo a documented pre-use inspection by a competent person prior to each shift. The inspection checklist can be found in Appendix A.

KEY ELEMENTS

- Scaffolds must be erected and utilized according to the manufacturer's instructions.
- When the working height of a scaffold reaches 6 feet, toprail and midrail or PFAS are required.
    - Crossbraces can meet the requirement for a midrail
    - Toeboards may be required if there are people working near or under the scaffolding.

Committed to Safety Excellence

- No employee is permitted to erect a scaffold with a height more than four times its minimum base dimension.
- Hardhats must be worn by all employees working on or near the scaffold.
- Falling object protection is required to protect employees working around the scaffold.

REFERENCE

Scaffold Safety Program