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## ACCESSING SAFETY KNOWLEDGE (ASK) SHEET: *USING SCAFFOLDS*

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Working from a scaffold presents its own set of safety issues. Employees must be trained in proper techniques and provided with the right equipment. Otherwise it can be a long way to the ground.

Working on a scaffold platform involves understanding:

1. Loading and rated capacity.
2. Working near power lines.
3. Weather conditions.
4. Fall protection requirements.

**Maximum intended loads:** The total load of all persons, equipment, tools, materials, transmitted loads, and other loads reasonably anticipated to be applied to a scaffold or scaffold component at any one time.

**Rated capacities:** The maximum load that a hoist is allowed to lift, whichever is less.

### **Inspection**

Scaffolds and components must be inspected for visible defects by your competent person before: each work shift, and after any occurrence that would affect structural integrity.

### **Overhead power lines**

Scaffolds must not be erected, used, dismantled, altered, or moved so that they, or any conductive material handled on them, might come closer than the distance charts at 1926.451(f)(6) allow unless, lines are deenergized or relocated by the utility company, or protective covers are installed.

### **Damaged scaffolds or scaffold components and capacity**

Any part of a scaffold damaged or weakened must be immediately repaired or replaced, braced to meet the requirements, or removed from service until repaired.

### **Moving scaffolds**

Scaffolds that are designed to do so can be moved horizontally while employees are on them. OSHA believes that making employees climb up and down a scaffold every time it is moved could be a greater risk than remaining on a scaffold being moved under the direction of a competent person.

### **Weather**

Employees are prohibited from working on scaffolds covered with snow, ice, and accumulated debris except to remove the hazards. Working from scaffolds is prohibited during storms or high winds unless a competent person has determined that it is safe to do so. The employees must be protected by personal fall arrest equipment or a wind screen.

### **Increasing working height**

Employees must never use makeshift devices, such as boxes and barrels, to increase the scaffold platform working level height. Ladders may be used on large area scaffolds to increase working height providing certain OSHA criteria is met.

### **Employee Training**

The training requirements for the scaffold rule (1926.454) require you to ensure employees understand any other pertinent requirements of Subpart L.

For More Information visit [www.osha.gov](http://www.osha.gov) 29 CFR 1926.451(f) Scaffold Use & 29 CFR 1926.454 Scaffold Training