

## Safety Note #172

# Supported Scaffold Safety



**Definition:** “Supported Scaffold” means one or more platforms supported by outrigger beams, brackets, poles, legs, uprights, posts, frames, or similar rigid support.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Seventy-two percent of the workers injured in scaffold accidents attributed the accident either to the planking or support giving way, or to the employee slipping, or being struck by a falling object. Plank slippage was the most commonly cited cause.

**This Safety Note is only for the use of a supported scaffold for the purpose of inspecting and observing work being conducted by a contractor. If an ANR employee is to conduct work activities on a scaffold, they must be trained by a qualified person. Scaffolds must be erected under the supervision of a qualified person (California Code of Regulations, Title 8, Section 1637).**

The following safety points are to be observed to ensure safe practices when using a supported scaffold:

- Scaffolds are to be inspected daily and before each use by a qualified person.
- Users are to be trained on all potential hazards including but not limited to, falling, falling objects, personal protective equipment, access, climbing on and off scaffolds, overhead and electrical hazards, and weather conditions.
- If the type of scaffold or safety equipment changes, users must be retrained.
- Know the maximum load and load carrying capacities of the scaffold and do not overload.
- Use only safe means of access. Do not climb using railings or braces not design for climbing.
- Face the rungs when climbing up and down the scaffold.
- Climb safely using both hands and do not carry materials when climbing.
- Do not work on slippery rungs and surfaces.
- Be sure of your footing and balance before letting go with your hands.
- Stay within the platform and guardrails, do not reach or lean out over guardrails.
- Wear at a minimum, hard hats, safety glasses and non-skid shoes on scaffolds.
- Work on or from scaffolds is prohibited during storms or high winds.
- Do not extend working heights by planking guardrails or use of boxes or ladders on scaffold platforms.
- Do not remove any component of a completed scaffold assembly except under the supervision of a qualified person.
- Do not create a slip, trip and fall hazard by leaving materials on platforms.

### Rolling Supported Scaffolds (Towers)

- Lock all casters before accessing the scaffold.
- Move rolling scaffolds at the base level. Do not pull from the top.
- Check for overhead obstructions including electrical lines in the path of the rolling scaffold.
- Secure all materials before moving a rolling scaffold.
- Rolling towers must be positioned on level surfaces.
- Do not ride on a manually propelled rolling tower. No personnel should be on the tower while being moved.

**Note:** Supported scaffolds do not require personal fall arrest systems if provided with a guardrail system.

**Note:** DO NOT climb off a scaffold onto a building, including the roof without proper fall protection equipment.