

Scaffold Erection and Dismantling

About 9 minutes to deliver

The most dangerous hours on any scaffold are the ones before it is finished and the ones after it stops being one.

Using a finished scaffold is the safe part. Erecting and dismantling is when the platform is incomplete, the ties are not all in, the guardrails do not exist yet, and somebody is standing on the part that is finished reaching for the part that is not.

WHAT THE STANDARD ACTUALLY SAYS

1926.451(g)(2) is unusual, and worth reading exactly:

The employer shall have a competent person determine the feasibility and safety of providing fall protection for employees erecting or dismantling supported scaffolds. Employers are required to provide it where the installation and use of such protection is feasible and does not create a greater hazard.

Two things follow. It is not automatically exempt — the default is that you protect people, and the exception has to be *determined*, by a competent person, not assumed by whoever is on the crew. And that determination is about this scaffold, today, not about scaffolding in general.

Where a personal fall arrest system is used on a scaffold, 1926.451(g)(3) requires it to be attached by lanyard to a vertical lifeline, horizontal lifeline, or scaffold structural member — not to a guardrail.

TRAINING IS A SEPARATE REQUIREMENT

1926.454(b): anyone erecting, disassembling, moving, operating, repairing, maintaining or inspecting a scaffold is trained by a competent person in that work — the nature of the hazards, the correct procedures, and the design criteria and intended use of the scaffold.

Retraining is required when the type of scaffold changes, when the fall protection changes, or when somebody's work shows they have not retained it.

WHILE IT GOES UP AND COMES DOWN

- A competent person supervises, on site, for the whole operation.
- Plank as you go and secure as you go. A plank laid but not secured is a trap for the next person up, and the person who laid it is often not the one who steps on it.
- Ties go in at the required height as you reach it, not at the end. Over four times the least base dimension, it gets tied — and that height arrives while you are still building.
- Nothing is dropped. Components get lowered or handed down. A coupler thrown from the third lift is the fastest thing on the site.
- Barricade below and keep it barricaded for the whole operation, both directions.
- Dismantling is not erection in reverse. Ties come out last, not first, and taking a tie out early to get a frame free is how the whole thing goes over.

COMPONENTS

Same manufacturer, same system, not mixed unless a competent person says the combination works. Damaged frames, bent braces, cracked couplers and split planks come out of service — and out of the stack, so nobody grabs one at four o'clock.

ASK THE CREW

- Who is the competent person for this scaffold, and are they here while it goes up?
- Has the fall protection determination been made for the erection crew, or assumed?
- Is everyone building this trained under 1926.454, not just trained to use one?

29 CFR 1926.451 · 29 CFR 1926.454

This is a toolbox talk, not a course. It is general awareness on one topic — not site-specific, not a hazard assessment, and not a substitute for assessment of your workplace by a competent person, your written programs, or manufacturers' instructions. It does not by itself satisfy any OSHA training requirement. Regulations change; verify against the current standard. Whoever delivers it is responsible for deciding it is suitable and sufficient for the work. Where a talk covers first aid, resuscitation, or mental health it is general safety information, not medical advice, not a substitute for professional medical care or certified emergency-response training, and it confers no certification — in an emergency, call 911. Free to print and use, as is, with no warranty of any kind. Migna Safety Solutions · training.mignasafety.com

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ATTENDANCE RECORD

Scaffold Erection and Dismantling

About 9 minutes to deliver · 29 CFR 1926.451 · 29 CFR 1926.454

Date

Job / site

Delivered by

Company

#	Print name	Signature	Date
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I delivered this talk and determined it was suitable for this crew and this work.

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