

MIOSHA Fact Sheet



Scaffold Erecting and Dismantling

Working at heights is very common in the construction industry and in many cases will require the use of a scaffold. Each time a scaffold is used, it involves setting it up and then taking it down after the work is completed. During these times employees can be exposed to fall hazards, which are the leading cause of fatalities in the construction industry. Unlike other individuals on a finished scaffold, erectors and disassemblers are exposed to the hazards of working on a partially completed structure. This work is required to be performed only by **experienced and trained** employees selected for such work by the competent person. The work should be supervised and directed by a competent person that is skilled in scaffold erection, moving, dismantling or alteration. Employers must designate a **competent person** to evaluate the numerous conditions at the jobsite in order to determine the most effective ways to protect all employees from fall hazards.

Construction Standard [Part 12, Scaffolds and Scaffold Platforms](#), Rule 1211(6) specifically addresses issues related to employees who are erecting or dismantling scaffolds. An employer shall have a **competent person** determine the feasibility and safety of providing fall protection for employees erecting or dismantling supported scaffolds. An employer shall provide fall protection for employees erecting or dismantling supported scaffolds where the installation and use of the protection is **feasible and does not create a greater hazard**.

“**Competent person**” means a person who is experienced and capable of identifying an existing or potential hazard in surroundings, or under working conditions, that are hazardous or dangerous to an employee and who has the authority and knowledge to take prompt corrective measures to eliminate the hazards.

Feasibility and Greater Hazard Evaluation:

- Evaluate whether an acceptable anchor for a fall protection system can be set up on a nearby structure or scaffolding.
- Determine if using a personal fall arrest system can be accomplished in accordance with the design and manufacturer’s instructions without creating a greater hazard.
- Determine if environmental or job-site conditions create a hazard that can be eliminated using fall protection.
- Ensure ladders or other means of access are installed as soon as practicable after the scaffold erection has progressed to the point they can be installed and used.
- Determine the amount of planking and/or work platforms needed to erect and dismantle the scaffold.
- Determine whether guardrails and/or cross bracing can be installed while erecting and dismantling.
- Establish a sequence or procedure for erecting and dismantling scaffolds that limits employee exposure to falls.
- Ensure employees are trained in the correct procedures for erecting and dismantling scaffolds.
- Ensure only the employees that are authorized to erect/dismantle the scaffolding are permitted to be on the scaffold until it has been completed and inspected.



LEO is an equal opportunity employer/program.

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(CSHD Fact Sheet #033 • Revised 9/25/2023)



Training Requirements:

Rule 1926.454(b) requires an employer to have each employee who is involved in erecting, dismantling, moving, operating, repairing, maintaining or inspecting a scaffold trained by a **competent person** to recognize any hazards associated with the work in question. This includes:

- The nature of scaffold hazards.
- The correct procedures for erecting, disassembling, moving, operating, repairing, inspecting, and maintaining the type of scaffold being used.
- The design criteria, maximum intended load-carrying capacity, and intended use of the scaffold.

Additional Requirements for Scaffolding:

- Employers must include scaffold safety training in their accident prevention program if erecting, dismantling, and using scaffolds is part of their work operations.
- Scaffolds must be designed by a **qualified person**.
- The employer must ensure that all scaffolds and its components are capable of supporting, without failure, no less than **four (4) times the maximum intended load**.
- Scaffolds and scaffold components must be inspected for visible defects by a competent person before each work shift and after any occurrence that could affect a scaffold's structural integrity.
- Employers shall provide scaffold training to each employee who performs work on a scaffold.

“**Qualified person**” means a person who, by possession of a recognized degree or certificate of professional standing, or who, by extensive knowledge, training, and experience, has successfully demonstrated the ability to solve or resolve problems relating to the subject matter and work.

Employers are encouraged to contact the MIOSHA Construction Safety and Health Division at 517-284-7680 if they have questions regarding jobsite health and safety or compliance issues. The MIOSHA Consultation Education and Training (CET) Division provides training and onsite audit services for residential and commercial builders at the employer's request, free of charge. The CET Division can be contacted directly at www.michigan.gov/cetra, or at 517-284-7720.