

# FAST Guide to Scaffold Use

## The Dangers of Scaffolding

Scaffolding has made it possible for workers in construction and other industries to more comfortably work at heights above a lower level. Though it helps workers to get their jobs done, there are also many risks workers face when working on this type of equipment.

Fall hazards and falling objects are among the biggest dangers facing workers on or around scaffolding. Staying compliant with the OSHA standard for scaffolding in your industry can help to prevent all of these injuries from happening.



65%

of the construction industry, or 2.3 million workers, work on scaffolds

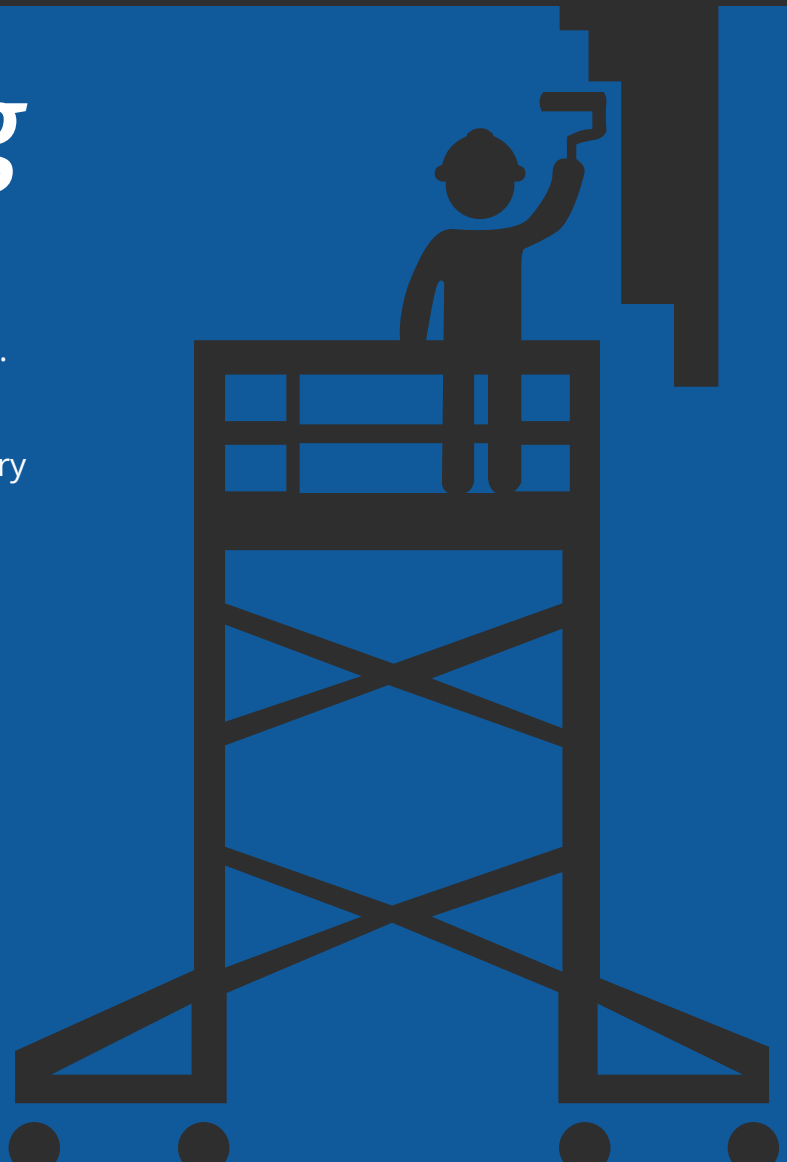


60

workers per year are killed in scaffold related accidents

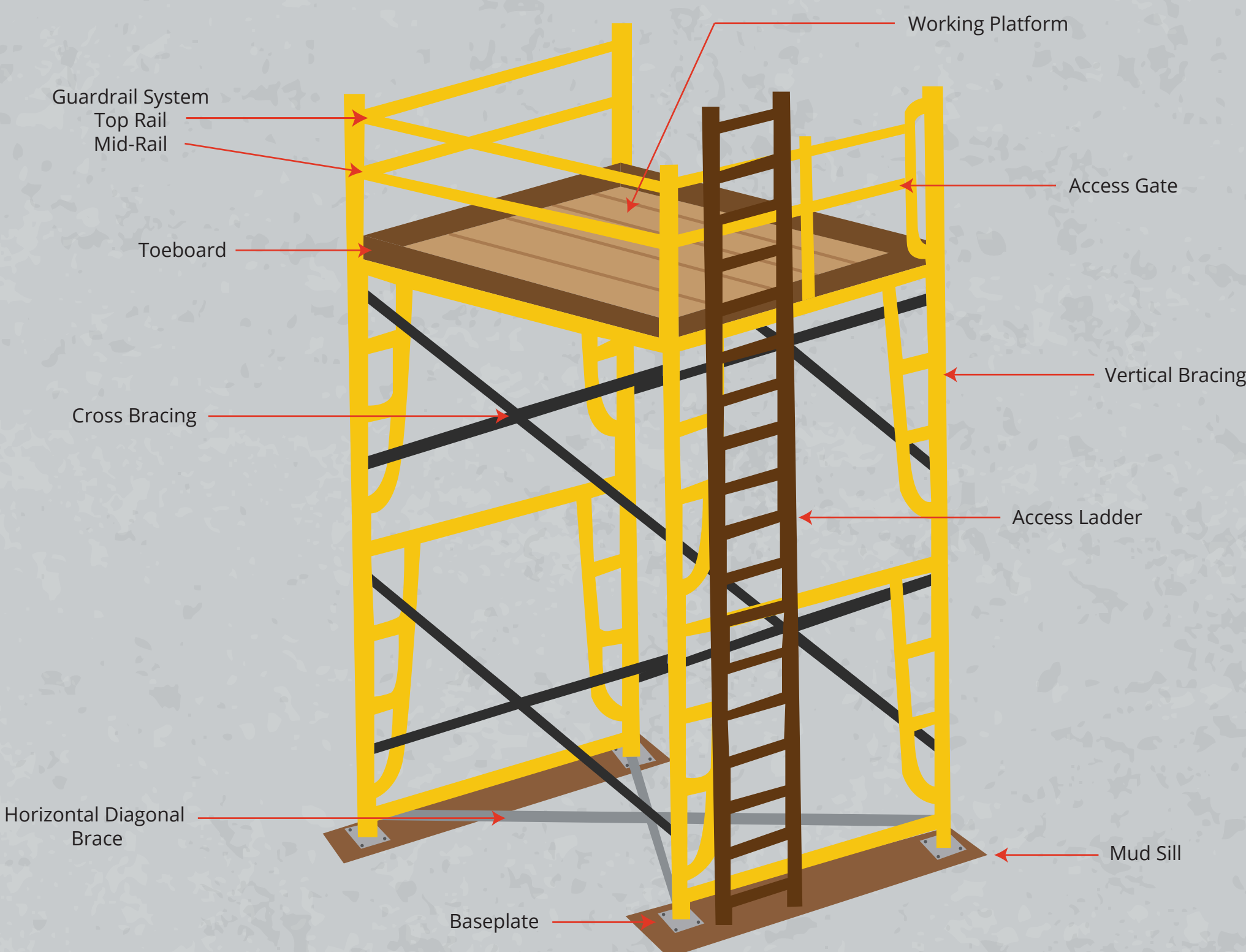


72% of scaffold related injuries are from falling objects or support plank failures



## Required Scaffold Components

The example below details the components required by OSHA for a compliant frame or fabricated scaffolding. There are several different types of scaffolding and each have a specific set of requirements to comply with the OSHA standard. To see what OSHA requires for any kind of scaffolding check out their easy to use eTool at <https://www.osha.gov/SLTC/etools/scaffolding/index.html>.



## Fall Protection Equipment

Employers must provide fall protection for each employee on a scaffold more than **10 feet (3.1 meters) above a lower level**. The type of fall protection required depends on the type of scaffolding being used. The chart below illustrates the type of fall protection required for specific scaffolds.



### Guardrail Systems

Guardrail systems are barriers erected to prevent workers from falling to lower levels.

### Fall Arrest Systems

Personal fall arrest systems are used to safely stop (arrest) a worker who is falling from a working level.



Type of Scaffold	Fall Arrest System	Guardrail	Grab Rope
Aerial lifts	X	-	-
Boatswains' chair	X	-	-
Catenary scaffold	X	-	-
Crawling board (chicken ladder)	X	X	X
Float scaffold	X	-	-
Ladder jack scaffold	X	-	-
Needle beam scaffold	X	-	-
Self-contained adjustable scaffold when supported by ropes	X	X	-
Single-point and two-point suspension scaffolds	X	X	-
Supported scaffold	X	X	-
All other scaffolds not specified above	X	X	-

## Competent Person



OSHA's scaffolding standard defines a competent person as "one who is capable of identifying existing and predictable hazards in the surrounding or working conditions, which are unsanitary or hazardous to employees, and who has authorization to take prompt corrective measures to eliminate them."

### What must a Competent Person do?

#### In General:

- Select and direct employees who erect, dismantle, move, or alter scaffolds
- Determine if it is safe for employees to work on or from scaffolds during storms or high winds

#### For Training:

- Train employees involved in erecting, disassembling, moving, operating, repairing, maintaining, or inspecting scaffolds to recognize associated work hazards

#### For Inspections:

- Inspect scaffolds and scaffold components for visible defects before each work shift and after any occurrence which could affect the structural integrity and authorize prompt corrective action

## Employee Information and Training

OSHA requires that all employees must be trained on the safe use of scaffolding and any other safety equipment they will use while working at elevated heights. The training must be administered by a competent person before the employee is required to work on or around scaffolds.

### What do my employees need to understand?

- ✓ The requirements of the OSHA standard
- ✓ The hazards associated with the type of scaffold used and how to minimize those hazards
- ✓ How to erect, disassemble, move, operate, repair, maintain or inspect scaffolds
- ✓ How to properly use fall protection or other equipment associated with scaffold use



## Fastenal Safety Specialists

Still unsure if you are complying with OSHA's Scaffolding Standard? Contact our safety specialists for help today by emailing [safetyquestions@fastenal.com](mailto:safetyquestions@fastenal.com).

Safety Expertise

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Sources:  
<http://www.bls.gov/iif/>  
<https://www.osha.gov/SLTC/scaffolding/>  
<https://www.osha.gov/SLTC/etools/scaffolding/index.html>  
<https://www.osha.gov/Publications/OSHA3150.pdf>