



# THE UNIVERSITY OF MAINE SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

## Platforms and Scaffolding

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### General

Temporarily located platform, scaffolding and elevated platforms used to support construction, maintenance, or demolition workers or materials are ordinarily used only by University of Maine Facilities Management personnel and construction contractor personnel. Research activities and educational activities requiring the use of this equipment shall comply with this policy.

- Post safety rules for scaffolding in a conspicuous place and make sure workers follow them.
- Abide by all state regulatory codes, ordinances, and regulations.
- Inspect all equipment before use. Never use equipment that is damaged or deteriorated in any way.
- Keep all equipment in good repair. Avoid using rusted equipment; its strength is not known.
- Inspect erected scaffolds regularly to be sure they are maintained in safe condition.
- Consult the scaffolding supplier when in doubt. Never take chances.

### Regulatory Guidance

Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) 29 CFR 1910.28 (Safety requirements for scaffolding), 29 CFR 1915.71 (Manually powered mobile ladder stands and scaffold towers), 1915.71 (Scaffolds or other staging), and 1926.451 (Scaffolds General requirements), UMaine – Fall Protection Program – MP10040

### General Requirements

The following are general scaffold safety requirements intended to provide a consistent level of information to all persons who are installing, supervising installation, or working on scaffolds. Facilities Management and contractor personnel shall maintain platform and scaffolding programs that ensure compliance with the specific needs of the specialist equipment.

- Place scaffolds on a level and stable surface.
- Plank the full width of the work area and secure planks from movement.
- Inspect the condition of scaffolds prior to each use and frequently thereafter.
- Ensure that base supports are strong enough to carry the loads to which they will be subjected. Boxes, barrels, concrete blocks, and similar items are not suitable supports.
- Keep planking free of defects and slippery substances. Do not overlap

planking members between supports. Allow at least 12 inches overlap beyond supporting members.

- Do not allow material and tools used in a project to accumulate on the scaffold.
- Do not use defective or damaged components.
- Place overhead protection consisting of heavy planking over the scaffold when work is being performed on higher levels.
- Know and comply with scaffold design load criteria. Provide adequate specification requirements to Facilities Management - Engineering Services so that they can design and construct a suitable scaffold. Do not overload scaffolds beyond the given design limits.
- Do not move portable scaffolds when personnel are working on them. Lock wheels whenever the scaffold is in use.

**Responsibilities**

Supervisors are responsible for ensuring that scaffolding is used where prudent and appropriate to complete a job task. They are also responsible for ensuring that each person using a scaffold has been properly trained in the safety procedures required as outlined in this policy.

**Employees** / Students are responsible for following the above University of Maine guidelines and for notifying their supervisors of damaged equipment or unsafe conditions.

**Definitions**

*N/A*

**For Additional Information**

Contact Safety and Environmental Management at 207/581-4055.

**Document History**

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