

UNSECURED SCAFFOLDING FALL

Safety Topic V6-0820

Incidents, Scaffolds & Lifts, Fall Protection



CONSTRUCTION SUPERVISOR FALLS FROM UNSECURED SCAFFOLDING PLANK

While a supervisor was setting up scaffolding for an indoor project, he stopped during the set-up process to hang a piece of drywall while standing on a walk plank that had no attaching hooks and was unsecured on both ends.

While hanging the drywall, the metal wall plank that he was standing on suddenly flipped on its side, throwing him nearly 11-feet down to the ground. Tragically, he was pronounced dead at the scene.



Position of the plank after it flipped onto its side.



Incident scene showing the plank that flipped.

- Prior to beginning work, a job hazard analysis (JHA) should be completed to determine what hazards are present and how to eliminate or minimize them.
- Proper scaffolding equipment should be used for each phase of work.
- Ensure scaffolds are fully planked or decked.
- When working on scaffolds, use fall protection in the form of guardrail or personal fall arrest system when 10 or more feet above the lower level of scaffolding.

OSHA Standard 1926.451(g)(1) Each employee on a scaffold more than 10 feet above a lower level shall be protected from falling to that lower level.

Discussion

Images: Kentucky Case Report 17KY007

What could have been done differently to prevent this tragic accident?

How should tools and materials be managed on scaffolding to prevent fall hazards?