

Scaffolds: electrical work on a shared platform

Talk 18 of 52 | Week 18 | Working at height

Leader: adapt this talk to today's electrical work and site procedures. See the educational-use and liability notice on page 2.

START THE CONVERSATION

An electrical crew arrives to work from a scaffold erected by another contractor. The fact that it is standing does not establish that it is ready for the crew's particular task.

KEY TALKING POINTS

1. Confirm that the scaffold has been inspected by the required competent person and is suitable for the intended work. Use the approved access and protection arrangements. Report changes, damage, or missing components rather than assuming another trade has already accepted them.
2. Do not modify the scaffold, remove protection, or improvise extra height without the required authorization and competent supervision. The crew's assignment is electrical installation, not permission to alter the supporting work platform.
3. Electrical job example: conduit bundles are brought onto a platform already carrying material from another trade. Coordinate storage and loading with the responsible person. Consider people, tools, and material together instead of treating each crew's load as a separate issue.
4. Plan how long material reaches the work position and how offcuts are controlled. Identify people below who could be exposed during handling. Keep the access route usable; a stack that fits on the platform may still block movement or create a trip hazard.
5. Discuss electrical exposures around the scaffold and the work itself. A scaffold's location may put workers or their material near conductors or equipment. Have the responsible person establish the necessary controls before the crew begins carrying or positioning conduit.
6. Review the handoff between trades. Ask who is contacted if a brace, plank, access point, or protective component changes during the day. Returning after lunch or moving to another section calls for attention to current conditions, not reliance on the morning's assumptions.
7. Finish with a stop-work example: the platform no longer matches the arrangement reviewed at the briefing. The crew should leave or avoid the affected area safely, report the change, and wait for the responsible person to determine when work may resume.

ASK THE CREW

1. Who confirms the scaffold is ready for our task?
2. How will we handle long material without blocking access?

BEFORE WORK STARTS

Confirm the inspection, load plan, access, and contact for changes before the electrical crew uses the scaffold.

OSHA SOURCES / FURTHER READING

OSHA: Scaffolding

Attendance & action record

Scaffolds: electrical work on a shared platform

Date: _____ Leader: _____

Company / jobsite: _____

Site hazards and controls discussed:

Follow-up action / responsible person / due date:

EDUCATIONAL USE & LIABILITY NOTICE

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Participant name	Signature / acknowledgment

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