



Preventing Falls From Scaffolding

When scaffolds are not upright or used properly, falls can occur. Protecting workers from scaffold-related accidents would prevent many deaths and more than 4,000 injuries each year.

Willie's Story

Willie was helping to install metal frames on the outer wall of a residential building. The scaffold he was working on was not tied off and had been moving away from the building while Willie was working. He stepped forward and fell 20 feet to the ground and died.

1. Why did this tragedy happen? How could it have been prevented?
2. Have you ever fallen from scaffolding and been injured, or have you heard of anyone who has? If so, what happened?

Remember this:

- Make sure scaffolding is properly tied off before beginning work.
- Always access the scaffolding using ladders, stair towers, or ramps.
- Use only scaffold planks.
- Make sure guardrails and toeboards are installed on all scaffolding 10 or more feet above the ground.
- Check with your supervisor to make sure the scaffold is able to support four times the maximum intended load (including the weight of the scaffold).
- Check with your supervisor to make sure the scaffold is level and plumb by using screw jacks on base plates and mudsills.
- Keep scaffold within 14 inches of the building.

How can we stay safe today?

What will we do at the worksite to prevent falls from scaffolding?

1. _____

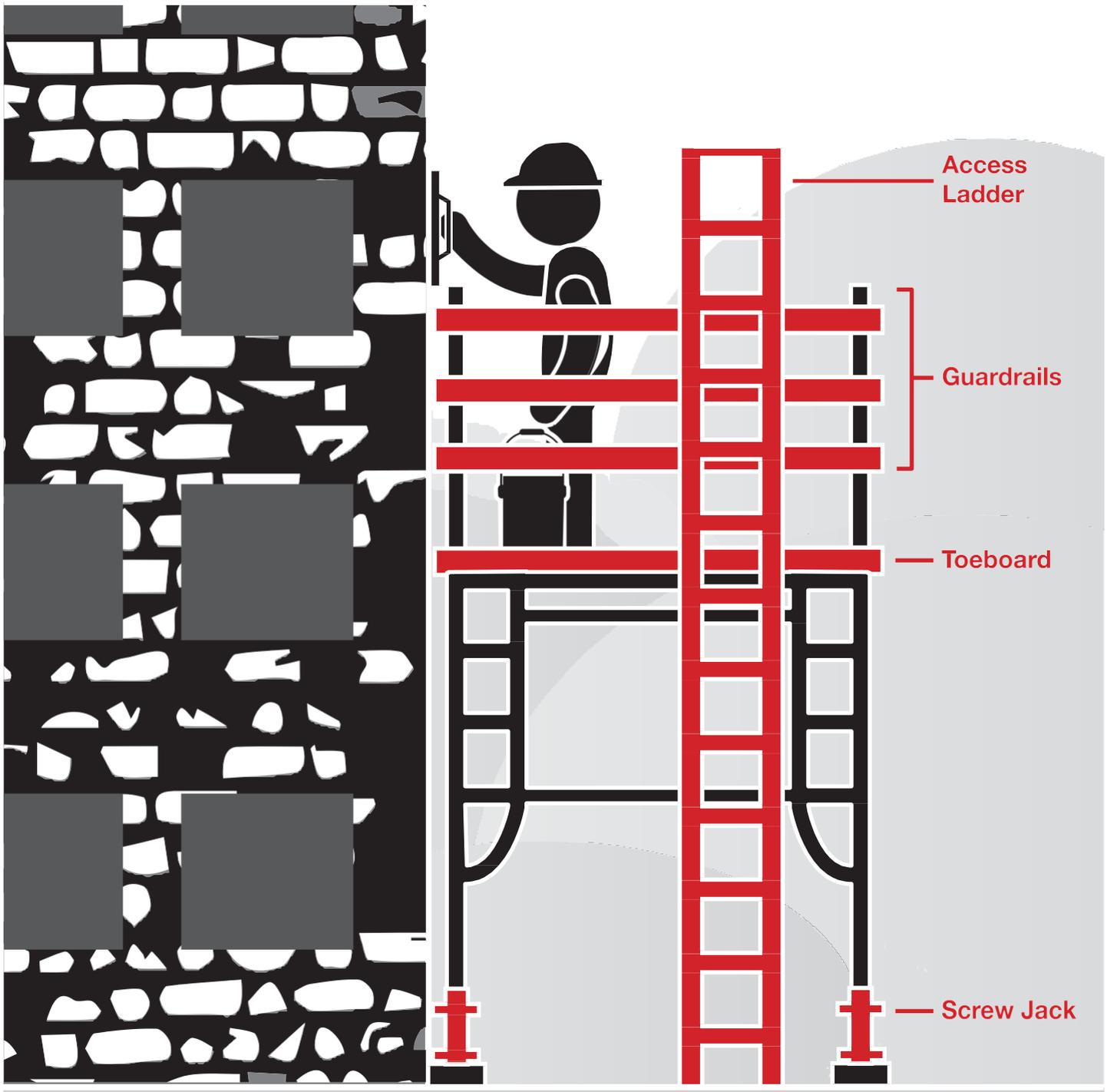
2. _____

3. _____

OSHA REGULATIONS: 1926.451



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- Provide proper access via ladders, stair towers, ramps, etc.
- Install guardrails and toeboards on all scaffolding 10 or more feet above the ground.
- Make sure the scaffold is level by using screw jacks on base plates and mudsills.