



Prevent Falls: Scaffolds

When scaffolds are not set up straight or used right, workers can fall. Using scaffolds the correct way can stop workers from being hurt or killed on the job. Protecting workers from scaffold-related incidents can prevent many deaths and thousands of injuries each year.

Willie's Story

Willie was helping to install metal frames on the outer wall of a house. The scaffold was not tied off and had been moving away from the building while Willie was working. The scaffold began to lean. He fell, struck his head on the second story, fell 20 feet to the ground, and died.

- ✘ What caused this incident?
- ✘ How could this have been prevented?
- ✘ Have you ever fallen from a scaffold, or do you know someone who has? If so, what happened?

Remember This

- **Always** make sure the scaffold is properly tied off before beginning work.
- **Always** use ladders, stair towers, or ramps to reach scaffolds. **Do not** climb up the scaffold itself.
- Use **only** scaffold-grade lumber as scaffold planks.
- Keep scaffolds within 14 inches of the side of the building.

Follow these safety rules. Your supervisor should make sure:

- **Always make sure** guardrails and toeboards are installed on scaffolds that are 10 or more feet above the ground.
- The scaffold can support four times the maximum intended load (including the weight of the scaffold).
- The scaffold is level and plumb. Use screw jacks on base plates and mudsills to keep the scaffold level.
- Fall protection is provided by the employer for each employee on a scaffold more than 10 feet (3.1 m) above a lower level.
- A qualified person decides if it is safe for workers to use fall protection when they are putting up or taking down scaffolds.

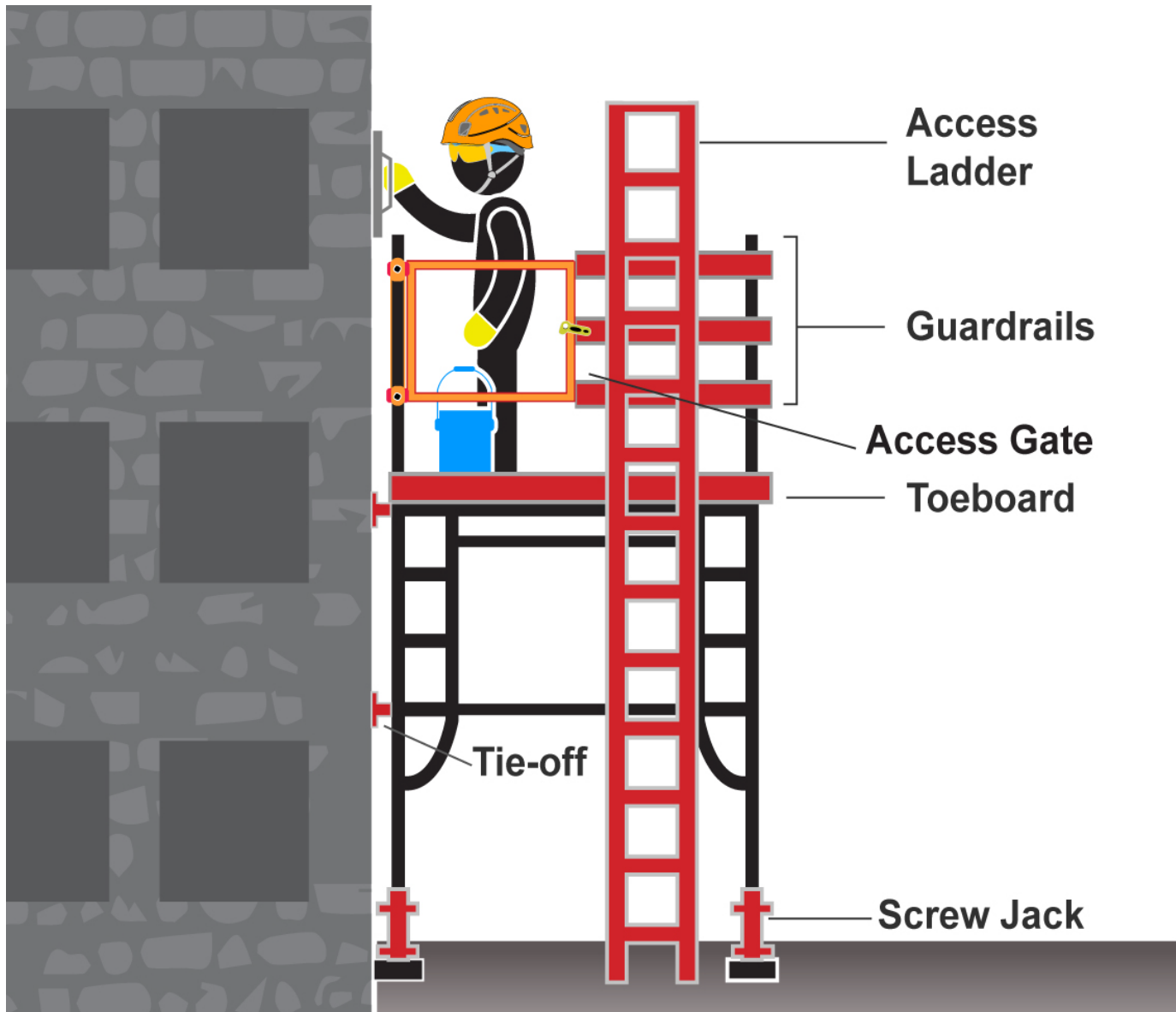
How can we stay safe today?

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

OSHA Standards: 1926.451 and 1926.454



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**GET
INFORMATION**

CDC/NIOSH INFO: 1-800-CDC-INFO (1-800-232-4636) | TTY: 1-800-232-6348 | [cdc.gov/info](https://www.cdc.gov/info) | [cdc.gov/niosh/construction](https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/construction)
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