Scaffold Tower Safety Stats and Facts



FACTS

1. **Inadequate Training:** Workers without proper training in scaffold tower assembly, use, or dismantling risk falls or collapses due to incorrect setup or failure to follow safety standards like OSHA or EN 1004:2020.
2. **Missing Fall Protection:** Lack of guardrails, personal fall arrest systems, or toe boards on platforms above 10 feet (6 feet for some contractors) increases the risk of fatal falls from scaffold towers.
3. **Improper Assembly:** Incorrectly assembled towers (e.g., missing bracing, unstable castors, or unlevel footing) can overturn or collapse, endangering workers and bystanders.
4. **Overloading Platforms:** Exceeding the weight capacity of scaffold towers with workers, tools, or materials compromises structural stability, leading to potential collapses.
5. **Lack of Inspections:** Failure to conduct pre-use and regular inspections (e.g., every 7 days for construction use) by a competent person can allow defects like damaged frames or missing pins to go unnoticed.
6. **Environmental Hazards:** Using scaffold towers in high winds, on uneven ground, or during adverse weather without proper stabilization increases the risk of tipping or structural failure.
7. **Unsafe Access:** Climbing tower frames or using improper ladders instead of designated access points (e.g., built-in ladders, hatches) heightens the risk of falls during entry or exit.

STATS

- The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) reported in 2020 that scaffold-related accidents caused approximately 52 deaths and 4,500 injuries annually, with 25% of fatal falls occurring from scaffolds.
- WorkSafeBC noted in 2022 that 10% of construction-related injuries in British Columbia involved scaffolding, with mobile scaffold towers cited in 30% of fall incidents due to improper assembly or lack of guardrails.
- OSHA reported in 2023 that scaffolding violations were among the top five most-cited construction standards, with 20% of citations related to missing fall protection or inadequate training on scaffold towers.
- A 2021 Statistics Canada survey found that 15% of construction workers reported near-miss incidents on scaffold towers, often due to unstable

footing or overloading.

- A 2022 Journal of Safety Research study indicated that 72% of scaffold tower injuries were attributed to planking/support failure, worker slips, or falling objects, preventable with proper inspections and fall protection.
- The Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety (CCOHS) stated in 2023 that workplaces with regular scaffold tower safety training reduced fall-related incidents by up to 20%.