

NIOSH ALERT

Preventing Falls from Suspension Scaffolds

WARNING!

Workers may die or be injured if scaffold equipment and fall protection systems are defective or misused.

Take the following steps to protect yourself if you are working from suspension scaffolds:

- **Always** use appropriate fall protection when working from suspension scaffolds. Generally, both guardrail systems and body belt or harness systems should be used.
- Ensure that a competent person has inspected all scaffolds, scaffold parts, and personal fall protection equipment **before each use**.
- Shield scaffold suspension ropes and droplines for body belt or harness systems during the following:
 - Hot processes such as welding

- Processes that use acids or other corrosives
- Processes that involve sharp edges or abrasion

- Use structurally sound portions of buildings or other structures to anchor droplines or body belt or harness systems and tiebacks for suspension scaffold support devices. Droplines and tiebacks should be secured to separate anchor points on structural members.
- Do not perform work on suspension scaffolds without appropriate safety training.



Worker with fall protection systems in place.

For additional information, refer to **NIOSH Alert: Request for Assistance in Preventing Worker Injuries and Deaths Caused by Falls from Suspension Scaffolds** [DHHS (NIOSH) 92-108], or call 1-800-35-NIOSH. Single copies of the Alert are available free from the following:

Publications Dissemination, DSDTT
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and Health
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U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
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