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1. Purpose

University of Alaska Anchorage (UAA) employees who perform work on UAA property may be required to erect or use scaffolding for specific tasks. Scaffolding is designed to provide a safe working platform at higher elevations. This Scaffolding Program is intended to ensure workers are knowledgeable in the hazards when working with scaffolding to protect themselves and others.

2. Objective

UAA, in its continuing effort to provide employees with safe, healthful working conditions, and to comply with the Occupational Safety and Health Act is implementing the following program for scaffolding to protect people working at the University, by helping employees, student workers, faculty, staff, and outside contractors better understand the equipment available to better protect themselves.

3. Scope

This program applies to UAA employees, student employees, faculty, staff, and outside contractors working on UAA equipment who build inspect or work from scaffolding.

4. Definitions

Brace - A tie that holds one scaffold member in a fixed position with respect to another member. Brace also means a rigid type of connection holding a scaffold to a building or structure.

Competent Person - A person who can identify existing and predictable hazards and has the authority to take prompt corrective measures to eliminate the hazards. Each department that owns or uses scaffolding must designate a competent person. The competent person is responsible for:

- Directing employees, who erect, dismantle, move or alter scaffolding;
- Determining if it is safe for employees to work from a scaffold during storms or high winds, and ensure that a personal fall arrest system is in place;
- Training employees involved in erecting, disassembling, moving, operating, repairing, maintaining, or inspecting scaffolding to recognize associated work hazards;
- Inspecting scaffolds and scaffold components for visible defects before each work shift, and after any occurrence which could affect the structural integrity, and to authorize prompt corrective action;
- , determining the feasibility and safety of providing fall protection and access; and

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- Develop and periodically review the scaffolding program
- Provide assistance to departments for scaffolding assessments and selection
- Assist with the determination of qualified persons
- Provide assistance with training content or providers

Supervisor

- Determine if scaffolding use is required and feasible in their department
- Ensure employee who will erect or use scaffolding receive the required training
- Ensure the proper equipment and PPE is available for scaffold use
- Periodically inspect scaffolding used in their departments to ensure proper erection and use
- Identify when new hazards are introduced which may require a change in scaffolding requirements

Department Safety Coordinator

- Assist in department scaffolding assessment
- Conduct periodic inspections of scaffolding erection, use and effectiveness in their departments
- Notify supervisor when it is noted that scaffolding is insufficient and assist in correction

Employees

- Inform supervisor of any deficiencies in scaffold construction or use
- Ensure scaffolding is inspected prior to use
- Ensure proper PPE is worn while working on scaffolding

Outside Contractors

- Perform all work in compliance with their company's scaffolding program, which will be reviewed and approved by the EHS/RM department
- If the company does not have a program, they must comply with this program

6. Hazards Associated with Scaffold Use

The following hazards exist while erecting and using scaffolding:

- Falls from heights

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- Before any scaffolding is erected, the area must be inspected for the following:
 - The ground is stable and capable of supporting the planned scaffolding
 - The location of any power lines
 - Overhead obstructions
 - Weather conditions
- Scaffolds shall be erected, moved, or disassembled only under the supervision of competent persons.
- UAA personnel may not work on scaffolds covered with snow, ice or other slippery materials or when the working surface is cluttered with materials.
- Personnel may not work on scaffolding during inclement weather, and high winds unless approved by a competent person.
- Scaffolding and components must be inspected by a competent person and documented each shift before personnel are allowed to work on the structure.
- Any damaged or suspect equipment must be fixed prior to personnel use.

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- Hook-on ladders
- Attachable ladders
- Stairways
- Stair towers
- Ramps and walkways
- Integral prefabricated frames

When erecting or dismantling supported scaffolds, a safe means of access shall be provided when a competent person has determined the feasibility and analyzed the site conditions.

Fall Protection

Anytime personnel are working on a scaffold 10 ft. or higher above the ground/floor level, fall protection procedures per the UAA Fall Protection Program is required.

Guardrails

- All scaffolds more than six feet above the lower level shall protect personnel with guardrails on each open side of the scaffold.
- Guardrails shall be installed along the open sides and ends before releasing the scaffold for use by UAA personnel.
- Materials such as steel or plastic banding shall not be used for top rails or midrails.

Guardrails are not required when:

- When personnel are actively erecting or dismantling scaffolding.
- The front end of all platforms are less than 14 inches from the face of the work.
- When personnel are plastering and lathing 18 inches or less from the front edge.

Falling Objects

To protect personnel from falling hand tools, debris, and other small objects, personnel should install toe boards, screens, guardrail systems, debris nets, catch platforms, canopy structures, or barricades.

If there is a risk of falling objects or over-head hazards, hardhats must be worn in the immediate area.

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Appendix A – Clearance Between Scaffold and Powerlines

Insulated Lines Voltage	Minimum Distance	Alternatives
Less than 300 volts	3 feet	
300 volts to 50 kV	10 feet	
More than 50 kV	10 feet plus 0.4 inches for each 1 kV over 50 kV	Two times the length of the line insulator, but never less than 10 feet