

Scaffold Safety Tips



photo credit: Andreamma Seymore

Always wear your harness!

Scaffold Workers

Protect yourself!

- You have the right to ask for a safe workplace.
- Always use a safety harness attached to a safety rope.
- You must take the scaffold safety training class and get a Certificate of Completion.
- Find safety training classes at www.nyc.gov/buildings or call 311.
- 311 operators can give you the name, location and times of safety training classes. They can also tell you what languages the classes are given in.
- When you finish your class, you will get a Certificate of Completion.
- Show your Certificate of Completion to the licensed rigger or foreman at your job; he will give you a Certificate of Fitness to work at that job.
- Do not work if there is NOT a licensed rigger or foreman on site.
- Call 311 if you see unsafe conditions. You do not need to give your name!

Licensed Riggers and Foremen

A licensed rigger or a foreman is in charge of the job site. You are responsible for the safety of your workers. You must be on the job site whenever work is going on. If you are going to put a foreman in charge when you cannot be on site, the foreman must have a “tear off” certificate to prove they can work in place of the rigger.

This means that the licensed rigger must choose the person who will be the foreman, and the foreman must have in his or her possession a “Certificate of License Record” (also known as a “tear-off” certificate) from the licensed rigger.

Licensed riggers can only get a “tear-off” certificate at the Department of Buildings’ Licensing Unit, at 280 Broadway on the 6th floor. For customer hours please call (212) 566-4100.

Make sure all paperwork involving proper safety and training is in order. Each scaffold worker must give you a Certificate of Completion of training before you can give the worker a Certificate of Fitness. Only workers that have had safety training get a Certificate of Completion. Workers must get safety training before getting on a scaffold. You cannot punish workers for asking you for training.

Contractors and Owners

Job safety is your responsibility. It is very important that you understand and follow all of the safety rules when hiring riggers and trained workers. You must hire only licensed riggers and trained workers. To find out if your rigger has a license and insurance, visit the Department of Buildings website at www.nyc.gov/buildings.

The Department of Buildings will stop the work if the scaffold is not safe or if the workers are not safe and can also fine you up to \$15,000. You must follow all federal, state and city scaffold laws. Visit www.nyc.gov/buildings and select “Construction Safety.”

Want more information?

**Call 311
or visit www.nyc.gov/buildings**