

Scaffold Safety Program

January - 2025

OVERVIEW

To ensure the safety and well-being of the Abilene Christian University community, ACU has established a comprehensive Scaffold Safety Program. This program is designed to prevent accidents and injuries associated with scaffold use through training, consistent inspections, and adherence to safe work practices. It outlines the roles and responsibilities of all personnel and emphasizes the importance of hazard identification and risk assessment. By implementing regular inspections and maintenance, providing detailed guidelines on safe scaffold use, and developing emergency response procedures, ACU's program aims to create a safe working environment. Continuous improvement is a key focus, with regular reviews and updates based on feedback and incident analysis. ACU's commitment to scaffold safety underscores our dedication to protecting our community ensuring a secure workplace.

All faculty, staff, students, contractors and authorized visitors whose work or visitation is under the supervision of Abilene Christian University (ACU) shall comply with this policy. Failure to comply with this program or the laws and regulations referenced within this program may result in disciplinary action up to and including termination. Any deviations from this scaffold safety program must be reported to the Office of Institutional Compliance & Risk Management at risk@acu.edu or 325-674-2424.

References

29 CFR 1926.450

29 CFR 1926.451

29 CFR 1926.452

29 CFR 1926.454

General Requirements

Scaffolding is considered any temporary elevated platform (supported or suspended) and its supporting structure (including points of anchorage) used for supporting employees or materials or both.

This document acknowledges the existence of multiple scaffolding systems, each designed to meet specific requirements and conditions. While the primary focus will be on temporary scaffolding structures, it is understood that additional scaffolding systems may be utilized as necessary. These systems will be identified and incorporated into this document as needed to ensure comprehensive safety practices.

- All scaffolds must be designed by a qualified person.
- Scaffolds must support at least four times the maximum intended load.
- Do not exceed the scaffolding's weight limit as specified in its design.
- Use only components that match the scaffold's design and specifications.
- Secure all equipment, such as cameras or lighting, to prevent them from falling.
- Keep a safe distance from power lines and other electrical hazards.
- Use guardrails, midrails, and toeboards to prevent falls.
- Ensure proper access to scaffolds using ladders or stair towers.

Authorized Use Only

- Only trained and authorized personnel are permitted to use or access the scaffolding.
- All outside personnel, including sub-contractors, vendors, or visitors must be briefed on safety protocols and supervised by university-authorized staff.
- Restrict access to the scaffolding to prevent unauthorized entry.
- Ensure a clear and unobstructed path to the scaffolding and staging areas.
- Outside users must comply with all university and OSHA scaffolding regulations.
- Outside users must sign a liability agreement acknowledging adherence to safety protocols.

Training & Personnel Protective Equipment

- Workers must receive training on scaffold use, including erecting, dismantling, and safe operating procedures as applicable.
- Training must cover hazard recognition, proper use of personal protective equipment (PPE), and emergency response.
- Use appropriate fall protection measures, including guardrails and safety harnesses where required.
- Personnel must wear non-slip footwear and avoid leaning over edges.

Inspection and Maintenance

- Scaffolds must be inspected by qualified personnel before each work shift and after any event that could affect their structural integrity.
- A qualified person for scaffolding, according to OSHA, is defined as someone who:
 - Possesses a recognized degree, certificate, or professional standing or
 - Has extensive knowledge, training, and experience and
 - Can solve or resolve problems related to scaffolding work or projects
- Any defective or loose components or structural concerns must be reported and addressed by being repaired or replaced immediately.
- Do not alter or modify the scaffolding without proper written approval from the responsible party.
- Notify university staff of any needed adjustments or repairs, and communicate to all workers to include posting signage stating, "Scaffold is not available to be used. Currently under repair."
- A visual inspection of the following should be performed before each work shift:
 - **Check for Visible Damage:** Look for any signs of wear, cracks, or other damage in scaffold components.
 - **Ensure Scaffold is Level and Plumb:** Verify that the scaffold is straight and stable.
 - **Confirm Guardrails and Toeboards:** Make sure guardrails, midrails, and toeboards are securely in place.
 - **Inspect Platforms for Gaps or Damage:** Look for any gaps, loose planks, or damaged sections on the platforms.

Erecting and Dismantling Scaffolds

- Erecting and dismantling must be conducted under the supervision of a competent person.
- A competent person is someone who is capable of identifying existing and predictable hazards in the surroundings or working conditions which are unsanitary, hazardous, or dangerous to employees, and who has the authorization to take prompt corrective measures to eliminate them.
- Ensure stability by using base plates, mudsills, or other appropriate foundation.
- Scaffolds must be plumb, level, and properly braced.

Emergency Procedures

- Establish a clear protocol for emergencies, including contact information for site supervisors and first responders.
- Develop and communicate emergency response plans for scaffold-related incidents, including fall rescue and medical assistance to all scaffolding users.
- Report all accidents and near-misses to ACU's Environmental Health and Safety Manager via risk@acu.edu or phone (325) 674-2424 for review and corrective action.

Continuous Improvement

- The Office of Institutional Compliance & Risk Management will regularly review and update the scaffold safety program and assist departments with reviewing and updating respective Standard Operating Procedures based on feedback and incident analysis.
- The Office of Institutional Compliance and Risk Management will conduct periodic audits to ensure compliance with safety standards.

Scaffold Safety Liability Agreement

I am fully aware of dangers and risks involved in working with or around scaffolding (herein referred to as “the Activity”) at Abilene Christian University and I choose to voluntarily participate in these activities with full knowledge that I may expose myself to such dangers and risks. **I THEREFORE AGREE TO VOLUNTARILY ASSUME FULL RESPONSIBILITY FOR ALL SUCH DANGERS AND RISKS** to which I may be exposed as a result of participating in the Activity.

By signing this document, I, _____, **HEREBY RELEASE, WAIVE, HOLD HARMLESS, AND INDEMNIFY** ACU (and its Board of Trustees, officers, employees, agents, volunteers and students) from any and all liability, claims, demand, suits, costs, and charges, in connection with or arising out of the Activity, including, but not limited to, any serious bodily injury, medical care received following an injury, death or property damage sustained by myself or others, except for loss, harm, or injury caused by gross negligence or intentional misconduct by ACU (or its Board of Trustees, officers, employees, agents, volunteers or students).

I agree to adhere to the following safety protocols and take full responsibility for my safety and the safety of those around me while on-site.

1. Adherence to Safety Guidelines:

- I have received and understood the Scaffold Safety Program.
- I will follow all scaffold safety guidelines, including proper use, inspection, and maintenance procedures.

2. Training:

- I confirm that I have received adequate training in scaffold safety and have the necessary physical and mental capabilities to work on or around scaffolds.

3. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE):

- I will wear the required personal protective equipment (PPE) at all times while on-site.
- I will ensure that my PPE is in good condition and used correctly.

4. Hazard Identification and Reporting:

- I will promptly report any hazards or unsafe conditions to the site supervisor or safety officer.
- I will not use or attempt to repair defective scaffold components.

5. Emergency Procedures:

- I am aware of the emergency procedures for scaffold-related incidents, including fall rescue and medical assistance.
- I will follow the emergency response protocols in case of an incident.

Acknowledgment: I acknowledge that failure to adhere to these safety protocols may result in disciplinary action, including removal from the site. I understand that I am responsible for my safety and the safety of those around me. I further understand and agree that this agreement is to be binding on my family, heirs, assigns, and personal representatives.



This agreement is governed by Texas law, and I understand that this agreement is intended to be as broad and inclusive as is permitted by Texas law. If any portion of this agreement is invalid, I agree that the remaining provisions shall continue to be in full force and effect.

Signature:

(Contractor/Visitor Name)

Date:

Company:

ACU Supervisor's Signature:

Date: