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Hierarchy of Controls





Administrative Controls





Controls that are *engineered* into the job. Preferred method of control.



Controls that change the way people do their jobs. They are only effective when people do what they are supposed to do. Second most preferred method of control.

- Training, education and enforcement
- Procedures to limit exposure
- Increasing distance between source and receiver
- Adjusting work schedules and rotating assignments to reduce exposure
- Maintenance
- Good housekeeping
- Wet-work methods

Controls that protect people from the hazard rather than eliminate it. Control method of last resort.

- Protective clothing
- Eye and face protection
- Respiratory protection
- Hearing protection
- Headwear
- Footwear
- Fall protection
- Protection against electrical hazards

The Worksite Analysis

A worksite analysis is a review of your work area. You should do one every day before you begin your work. It can help you find and correct possible safety problems. Here is how to do a worksite analysis.

1. Identify the space where you will be working.





2. Look for hazards that might cause injuries.

3. Use a checklist to help you identify hazards.





4. Discuss problems and corrections with your supervisor.

The Competent Person For Scaffolds

The OSHA standard requires that a competent person oversee the erection, disassembling, moving, operation, repair and maintenance of a scaffold. Here are the qualifications and duties of this person.

Qualifications of the competent person
Knowledge of the OSHA standard relating to scaffolds
Training regarding the structural integrity of scaffolds
Training on scaffold maintenance
Ability to detect and evaluate conditions that could cause a scaffold to become structurally unstable
Authority to act on site to eliminate hazards and to stop work when required
۲
Duties of the competent person
Inspect the scaffold and its components before each work shift
Train employees who work on the scaffold to use it properly and to recognize the hazards associated with using it
Ensure that employees using the scaffold recognize the maximum load capacity
Ensure that the load being supported by the scaffold is within the maximum load capacity
Ensure that the scaffold is plumb, square and level
Ensure that the scaffold is on base plates and that the mudsills are level, sound and rigid
Ensure that the scaffold has safe access
Ensure that the platforms are fully planked and that the planks are in good condition and free of visible defects
Ensure that the scaffold has all required guardrails and toeboards
Oversee the work on the scaffold
Take prompt corrective measures when there is a hazard or a dangerous situation

Every day, when you begin work at your construction site, you should check for hazards that could cause a fall. Following is a list you can use when you do this check.

ITEM

OK? CORRECTIVE ACTIONS

General Work Area

•	Are there unguarded floor holes?	
•	Do floor hole covers weigh two times the weight that will be placed on them?	
•	Is there an unguarded vertical drop of six feet or more?	
•	Are employees wearing slip- resistant shoes?	
Guare	drails	
•	Tall enough (top edge height between 39 and 45 inches)?	
•	Midrails, screens or mesh in use between guardrail and working surface?	
•	Screens and mesh cover everything from the top rail down to the working surface?	
•	Intermediate members between posts no more than 19 inches apart?	
•	Guardrail capable of withstanding at least 200 pounds of force from any direction?	
•	Midrails capable of withstanding 150 pounds of force from any direction?	
•	Guardrail free of rough edges or jagged surfaces?	

ITEM

OK? CORRECTIVE ACTIONS

Ladders

• Ladders in good condition with no broken parts? Rungs? Steps? Side rails? Feet? Locking components? Portable ladder side rails extend at least three feet from top of landing? • Side rails secured to at the top to a rigid support? • Weight to be used on ladder within specifications? • Portable ladders have a solid support such as a wall? • Distance from foot of portable ladder to the base of the support structure at about ¹/₄ of the length of the ladder? Ladder rungs or steps uniformly • spaced at between 10 to 14 inches apart? • Rungs shaped so that an employee's foot cannot slide off? Rungs skid resistant? ۲ • Ladder free of oil, grease, wet paint, and other slipping hazards? Wood ladders free of opaque • covering?

ITEM

OK? CORRECTIVE ACTIONS

Ladders—continued

- Foldout or stepladders have a metal spreader or locking device to hold the front and back sections in an open position when in use?
- Do you avoid using two or more ladders to reach a high work area offset with a landing or platform?
- Do you avoid tying or fastening ladders together to provide longer sections?
- Is area around top and bottom of the ladder kept clear?

Scaffolds

- Is the scaffold constructed by a qualified person or organization?
- Is the scaffold undamaged and in good condition?
- Are there guardrails on the scaffold?
- Can scaffold support its own weight plus four times the weight of the maximum load?
- Is the scaffold platform fully planked with no open spaces?
- Do you avoid having the scaffold platform extend excessively over its support?
- Are scaffold footings level, rigid and capable of supporting the loading scaffold?

ITEM

OK? CORRECTIVE ACTIONS

Scaffolds—continued

- Is the scaffold supported only by stable objects?
- Do you avoid using front-end loaders, fork lifts or other equipment as supports for the scaffold?
- On a suspension scaffold, are outside wires free of corrosion, scrubbing, flattening or preening?
- On a suspension scaffold, are wires free of damage caused by a torch or contact with electrical wires?
- Is scaffold accessed by ladders or stairs, not by the crossbraces?
- Are scaffold ladders and stairs slip resistant?
- Is there adequate clearance between the scaffold and power lines?
- Is the scaffold free of snow and ice?
- Do you avoid makeshift devices, such as boxes or barrels, on a scaffold to extend working height?
- Do you avoid using ladders on a scaffold?
- Do employees wear hard hats when on and below the scaffolding?
- Does the scaffold have toe boards to prevent tools and other loose equipment from falling?
- Does the scaffold have a canopy or net below it to catch falling objects?

ITEM

OK? CORRECTIVE ACTIONS

Fall Arrest Systems

- Are personal fall arrest systems certified to perform correctly?
- Are personal fall arrest systems free of wear, damage and deterioration?
- Are safety nets installed as close as possible under the surface on which employees are working?
- Do safety nets have enough clearance to prevent contact with the surface structure underneath?
- Do you drop-test your safety net every time you install it, or is the net certified by a competent person every time you install it?
- Do you inspect your safety net for wear, damage and deterioration at least once a week?
- Do you avoid using defective nets?
- Do you remove objects and debris from nets frequently?

OSHA Resources for this checklist are:

- 29 CFR 1926 Subpart E
- 29 CFR 1926 Subpart L
- 29 CFR 1926 Subpart M
- 29 CFR 1926 Subpart X

Clearances for Operating Equipment Around High Wires

MINIMUM CLEARANCES WHILE WORKING		
Line Voltage	Distance	
50kV or below	10 feet	
50kV and higher	10 feet + .4 inches for each 1kV above 50kV	

MINIMUM CLEARANCES WHILE IN TRANSIT		
Line Voltage	Distance	
50kV or below	4 feet minimum	
50kV to 345kV	10 feet	
Over 345kV to 750kV	16 feet	

Procedures To Follow If Contact Occurs

Contact between a crane and an energized line does not automatically lead to an electrical incident. To protect against electrical shock, the following procedures are recommended:

- The crane operator should remain inside the cab until the lines have been de-energized.
- All other personnel should keep away from the crane, ropes, and load, since the ground around the machine might be energized.
- The crane operator should try to remove the crane from contact by reversing direction.

This information can be found at OSHA's e-tool website:

http://osha.gov/SLTC/etools/construction/electrical_incidents/cranes.html

Estimated Effects of AC Currents

U.S. Standard 60 Hz			
1 milliamp (mA)	Barely perceptible		
16 mA	Maximum current an average person can grasp and "let go"		
20-30 mA	Paralysis of respiratory muscles		
100 mA	Ventricular fibrillation threshold		
2 Amps	Cardiac standstill and internal organ damage		
15/20/30 Amps	Common U.S. household breakers		



PATH

Harm is related to the path by which current passes through the body.

Chart and diagram courtesy of Associated General Contractors of America

Emergency Response to Electric Shock

1. **DO NOT** touch the person in contact with the electric source. You could also be shocked.



- **9-1-1** 2. Shout out for someone to call 9-1-1.
- 3 Switch off current or master switch.





- 4 If you can't turn off electric source, use a non-conductive item (insulated wire fashioned as a lasso, wooden handle with a hook, wooden chair) to remove the person from the electricity source.
- 5 Check airway, breathing and circulation (ABC). Give CPR if necessary.





5 Keep victim lying down and warm until emergency help arrives.

Every day, when you begin work at your construction site, you should check for hazards that could cause an electrocution. Following is a list you can use when you do this check.

ITEM

OK? CORRECTIVE ACTIONS

General Electrical Safety

- Do you assume power sources are energized unless you know for certain they are not?
- Do you use equipment only for its designed purpose?
- Do you avoid making extension cords with ROMEX[®] wire?
- Do you avoid using equipment outdoors that is labeled for use indoors?
- Do you avoid attaching ungrounded, two-prong adapter plugs into three-prong cords or tools?
- Do you avoid using circuit breakers or fuses with the wrong rating (example: using a 30-amp breaker in a system with a 15- or 20- amp outlet)?
- Do you have an emergency response plan for electrical injuries?
- Do you practice your emergency response plan for electrical injuries?

ITEM OK? **CORRECTIVE ACTIONS Power Tool Safety** • Do you avoid carrying power tools by their cords? • Do you avoid yanking cords to disconnect them from outlets? • Do you keep cords away from heat, oil and sharp edges? • Do you keep cords away from cutting surfaces of power saws or drills? • Do you disconnect tools when not in use? • Do you disconnect tools before servicing or when changing blades or bits? • Do you avoid holding your finger on the "ON" switch when carrying a plugged-in tool? • Do you use gloves and safety footwear when using electrical tools? • Do you avoid using tools in damp or wet locations unless tools are specifically approved for such use? • Do you operate tools in a well-lit area? • Do you tag damaged tools with "Do Not Use"?

ITEM

OK? CORRECTIVE ACTIONS

Extension and Flexible Cord Safety

- Do you use factory assembled cord sets?
- Do you use only extension cords that are three-wire type?
- Do you use only extension cords that are marked with a designation code for hard or extra-hard usage?
- Do you avoid yanking cords to disconnect them from outlets?
- Do you have a system for auditing cords to ensure they are the proper kind?
- Do you avoid straining flexible cords?
- Do you avoid dragging flexible cords along window and other sharp edges?
- Do you avoid dragging flexible cords through staples and other sharp objects found at construction sites?
- Do you avoid removing ground plugs?

ITEM

OK? CORRECTIVE ACTIONS

Ground Fault Protection • Are all your power supply systems grounded? • Are all your electrical circuits grounded? • Is all your electrical equipment grounded? • Do you use ground-fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) on all 120volt, single-phase, 15- and 20ampere receptacles? • Do you follow manufacturers' testing procedures to ensure GFCI is working properly? • Do you use double-insulated equipment? • Do you use tools according to their instructions? • Do you avoid using tools with frayed cords? • Do you avoid using tools with missing ground prongs? • Do you avoid using tools with cracked tool casings? • Do you ground all exposed metal parts of equipment? • Are all of your electrical systems grounded?

ITEM

OK? CORRECTIVE ACTIONS

Working Around Power Lines

- Do you look for overhead power lines when you enter a construction site?
- Do you contact utilities for buried power line locations?
- Are power lines de-energized, guarded or insulated?
- Do you post warning signs when power lines can't be de-energized?
- If power lines are not de-energized, do you allow enough clearance?
- Do you identify safe routes where cranes and other equipment must travel?
- Do you operate cranes at slowerthan-normal speeds when near power lines?
- Do you designate a signal person to indicate when clearance is safe?
- Do you avoid touching or handling the crane or its load until a signal person says it is safe to do so?
- Do you use boom guards?
- Do you use insulating links?
- When handling equipment or materials with a crane boom, do you use equipment that has an electrical ground connected directly to the upper structure of the boom?

ITEM	OK?	CORRECTIVE ACTIONS
Working Around Power Lines— continued		
• Do you ground the metal frames and tracks of electrically operated cranes?		
• Do you ground the frames of non- electrically driven elevator cards to which electric conductors are attached?		
• Do you ground hand-operated metal shifting ropes or cables of electric elevators?		
• Are ladders made of non-		

OSHA Resources for this checklist are:

conductive wood or fiberglass?

- 29 CFR 1910.147
- 29 CFR 1926 Subpart I
- 29 CFR 1926 Subpart K
- 29 CFR 1926 Subpart N

Soil Classifications

Soil types are listed from the most stable to the least stable. Note that the soil in an excavation much be rated by a competent person.

Stable Rock	A natural solid mineral
	Examples: granite or sandstone
	Can be excavated with vertical sides and remain intact while exposed
Type A Soils	Cohesive soils with an unconfined compressive strength of 1.5 tons per square foot (tsf) or greater
	Examples: clay, silty clay, sandy clay and clay loam
	Exceptions: previously disturbed soils, fissured soil, soil with seeping water, vibration
Type B Soils	Cohesive soils with an unconfined compressive strength greater than 0.5 tsf but less than 1.5 tsf
	Examples: angular gravel, silt, silt loam
	Other: Soils with Type A strength, but also with Type A exceptions
Type C Soils	Cohesive soils with an unconfined compressive strength of 0.5 tsf or less
	Examples: granular soils such as gravel, sand and loamy sand, submerged soil, soil from which water is freely seeping and submerged rock that is not stable
Layered Geological Strata	Where different soil types are combined in layers, the soil must be classified based on the weakest layer

The above information can be found in the OSHA Technical Manual: http://www.osha.gov/dts/osta/otm/otm_v/otm_v_2.html#app_v:2_1

For more detailed classifications, see OSHA 29 CFR1926 Subpart P, Appendix A.

The Competent Person For Excavation and Trenching

The OSHA standard requires that many excavation activities be conducted and/or supervised by a competent person. Here are the qualifications and duties of this person.

Qualifications of the competent person

- Soil analysis training
- Training on the use of the various protective systems
- Knowledge of the OSHA requirements
- Authority to act on site to eliminate hazards and to stop work when required
- Ability to detect conditions that could cause cave-ins, failures in protective systems, and hazardous atmospheres and conditions

Duties of the competent person

- Contact utilities to locate underground lines
- Evaluate soil conditions
- Determine type of protective system
- Oversee construction of protective system
- Determine safe entry and exit for the excavation
- Test for oxygen, hazardous fumes and toxic gases, especially if gasoline engine-driven equipment will be used
- Ensure adequate ventilation
- Hold a pre-project meeting to review safe work procedures
- Oversee the operation
- Enforce safe operating procedures
- Inspect the site at the start of each shift and following a rainstorm
- Have an emergency response plan
- Keep excavations open a minimum amount of time

Every day, when you begin work at your excavation site, you should check for hazards that could cause an injury. Following is a list you can use when you do this check.

ITEM

OK? CORRECTIVE ACTIONS

Spoil Placement

- Are spoils at least 2 feet back from the excavation?
- If spoils are not 2 feet back, do you use retaining devices, such as a trench box, to protect the excavation site.
- Are the spoils placed so that rainwater and other run-off move away from the excavation?
- If spoils can't be placed safely at the excavation site, are they hauled to another location?

Protection Systems

- Has a competent person selected the site's protection system?
- Has a competent person overseen the installation of the protection system?
- Is the protection system accurate for the soil type?
- Is the protection system inspected every day by the competent person?

ITEM		OK?	CORRECTIVE ACTIONS
Safe E	entry and Exit		
•	Do you have a safe way to enter and exit if the excavation is 4 or more feet deep?		
•	Is access within 25 lateral feet of workers?		
•	Are access ramps designed by a competent person?		
٠	Do ramps have a non-slip surface?		
•	Can you walk upright on an earthen ramp?		
٠	Are ladders secured?		
•	Do ladders extend at least 36 inches above the landing?		
•	Do you avoid using metal ladders if electricity is present at the site?		
Vehicle Safety			
•	Do you wear a warning vest marked with or made of reflectorized or high visibility materials?		
•	Is there a trained flag person who designates traffic at the excavation site?		
•	Are you trained to use hand or mechanical signals as a way to communicate?		
•	Is the excavation site fenced and barricaded at night?		
•	Does mobile equipment have a warning system?		

ITEM

OK? CORRECTIVE ACTIONS

Surface Crossing

- If there is a vehicle crossing, is it designed and installed under the supervision of a registered professional engineer?
- Do walkways have a minimum clear width of 20 inches?
- Are walkways fitted with guard rails?
- Do walkways extend a minimum of 24 inches past the surface edge of the trench?

Water Management

- If there is water, does the site have special support or shield systems approved by a registered professional engineer?
- Does the site have water removal equipment, such as pumps, used and monitored by a competent person?
- Are surface waters diverted from the excavation?
- Do you use a safety harness or a lifeline?
- Are employees required to leave the site during rainstorms?
- Is the site carefully inspected by a competent person after each rain and before employees are permitted to re-enter?

ITEM OK? CORRECTIVE ACTIONS **Hazardous Atmosphere** • Is the atmosphere tested for possible oxygen deficiency or build-up? • Is the oxygen content maintained at between 19.5% and 21%? • Is ventilation provided to prevent flammable gas build-up to 20% of lower explosive limit of the gas? • Is emergency response equipment readily available? Inspections • Is your excavation site inspected by a competent person? • Is the site inspected daily and before the start of each shift? • Is site inspected after rainstorms? • Is the site inspected after other events that could increase hazards such as snowstorms, windstorms, thaws or earthquakes? • Is the site inspected when fissures, cracks, sloughing, undercutting, water seepage or bulging at the bottom occur? • Is the site inspected when there is a change in the size, location or placement of the spoil pile? Is the site inspected when there is • indication of change or movement in adjacent structures? Are site inspections documented?

ITEM

OK? CORRECTIVE ACTIONS

General Safety Practices

- Do you wear a hard hat at all times?
- Do you avoid working or walking under a suspended load?
- Do you avoid working on faces of sloped or benched excavations above other employees?

OSHA Resources for this checklist are:

- 29 CFR 1910.146
- 29 CFR 1926 Subpart D
- 29 CFR 1926 Subpart E
- 29 CFR 1926 Subpart P

Hand Signals

Following are some hand signals that you should learn. They will allow you to communicate with equipment operators.



Source: www.cdc.gov/nasd/docs/d00091-d001000/d000932/d000932.pdf

Every day, when you begin work at your construction site, you should check for hazards that could cause a struck-by injury. Following is a list you can use when you do this check.

ITEM

OK? CORRECTIVE ACTIONS

Operating Vehicles

•	Have you been trained in the proper operation of the vehicle you are driving?	
•	Are all vehicles inspected before each shift?	
•	Do the brakes work on all vehicles?	
•	Does the vehicle sound an alarm when put in reverse?	
•	Does the vehicle have a roll bar or a protective cabin?	
•	Do you read and follow all the instructions in the operator's manual?	
•	Are you drug and alcohol free?	
•	Do you wear a seat belt when you operate a vehicle?	
•	Do you avoid riding in reverse when your view is obstructed?	
•	Do you use hearing protection?	
•	Do you rely on a signal person to guide your vehicle movement through blind spots?	

ITEM

OK? CORRECTIVE ACTIONS

Operating Vehicles—continued

- Do you avoid wearing items (jewelry, ties, drawstrings, loose clothing) that could become entangled with the moving parts of the equipment?
- Do you avoid carrying other personnel on a vehicle unless there is a safe place to ride?
- Do you stay within the vehicle's rated lift or load capacity?
- Do you set the parking brakes when the vehicle is not in use?
- Do you use wheel chocks when the vehicle is inactive?
- Do you leave all power controls in the neutral position when the vehicle is not in use?
- Do you lower or block bulldozer and scraper blades and end-loader buckets when they are not in use?

ITEM

OK? CORRECTIVE ACTIONS

Working Around Construction Vehicles or in Traffic	
• Have you been trained in safe work practices when working around construction equipment?	
• Do you wear non-skid, sturdy shoes or boots?	
• Do you wear highly visible clothing in all levels of light?	
• At night, do you wear reflective clothing?	
• Do you stay a safe distance away from an operating vehicle?	
• Do you remain outside of barricaded areas where equipment is operating?	
• Do you use hand signals to warn vehicle operators of conditions on the ground?	
• Do you use flashing lights to warn traffic of your presence?	
• Do you use stop and slow paddles to slow traffic down?	
• Do you use concrete barriers to separate the construction workers from the traffic?	
• Do you use signs and warning devices to give advanced warning to motorists?	

ITEM

OK? CORRECTIVE ACTIONS

Falling/Flying Objects

- Do you wear a hard hat?
- Do you wear safety glasses or a face shield?
- Do you stack materials to prevent them from sliding or collapsing?
- Do you use toeboards on scaffolds?
- Do you use safety nets on scaffold sides to prevent objects from falling over the side?
- Do you avoid working underneath scaffolds?
- Do you avoid working under areas that are being loaded or unloaded?
- Do you inspect cranes and hoists to ensure that all parts are secure?
- Do you avoid exceeding the lifting capacity of cranes and hoists?
- When you are working above others, do you secure your tools to prevent them from falling?
- When you are working above others, do you barricade a safe area to warn people below to steer clear?

OSHA Resources for this checklist are:

- 29 CFR 1926 Subpart E
- 29 CFR 1926 Subpart G
- 29 CFR 1926 Subpart L
- 29 CFR 1926 Subpart O