

LivSafe is a conscious safety initiative of Liberty General Insurance Limited to help people live safer, secure lives through an education series of proactive and preventative suggestions in the safety arena. This document does not purport to promote any product, directly, or indirectly.

Working at heights has become a part of the routine in the industrial and construction sectors. Maintenance and construction involve various activities being carried out at heights. Scaffoldings are an integral part of these activities. Scaffoldings run the risk of accidents like falls, drops, failure, etc.

We at Liberty General Insurance Limited understand the importance of human safety against hazards and risks associated while working with scaffoldings. We intend to suggest some measures to reduce these hazards and risks.



OVERVIEW

A scaffolding is a temporary support structure which enables workers to reach the required heights during construction, maintenance or repair of existing equipment or building structures. The purpose of installation of scaffolding is to offer a comfortable and safe working arrangement as compared to working from ladders, leaning over edges and stretching overhead.

CASE STUDIES

A. Scaffolding collapsed at building site-Noida, 2018.

Four people were killed in an incident due to a scaffolding collapse. A few safety locks of the scaffolding were removed by the workers for placing glass windowpanes and a further impact from a tractor carrying material led to a weakening of the foundation and resulted in the collapse.

Learning: Proper training about safety locks and barricading for restricting vehicle movement could possibly have averted the loss.

B. Scaffolding collapsed-Thane, 2018:

Workers were in the process of removing scaffolding which was installed two years ago to carry out maintenance work in a residential building. The bamboo of the scaffolding had rotted, and the ropes used to tie it were worn out. The scaffolding came off when the workers climbed over it.

Learning: Periodic inspection, assessment, consultation with prudent engineer could have averted the loss.

CAUSE OF SCAFFOLDING ACCIDENTS



Insufficient Training.



Negligence by workers towards safety rules.



Non-Adherence to Personal Protective Equipment.



Improper design of scaffolding structure.



Weak/old material of construction.



Inadequate fall protection measures.



Changing environmental conditions.
(extreme temperatures, high winds, presence of corrosive environment)

PREVENTIVE MEASURES TO AVOID SCAFFOLDING ACCIDENTS

Possibility of accidents can be reduced by taking a few practical prevention measures:

- Appointing a prudent engineer for selection and designing the scaffolding structure.
- Using adequate material for construction basis the job requirement and environmental conditions.
- Supervision of scaffold during erection and dismantling.
- Periodic inspections to ensure health of the scaffold or platform.
- Periodic maintenance and repair of scaffold structure followed by load study.
- Regular training of workers using the scaffold structure to perform their day to day tasks.
- Adherence to protective equipment such as harness, fall protection etc.

WORLD'S LARGEST SCAFFOLDING PROJECT – THE EDEN PROJECT

The Eden Project at Cornwall, UK consists of two biomes spanning 16,000 and 7,000 square meter respectively. The height of these biomes are 55 and 35 meters. While constructing it in year 1998, 370 km long scaffolding was used. It is mentioned in the Guinness World Records.

These Biomes are being used for housing tropical plants, such as fruiting banana plants, coffee, rubber and giant bamboo, and is kept at a tropical temperature and moisture level.



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