

6. PLANNING

With proper planning, you'll be able to give site managers ample notice to coordinate with scaffolders for any necessary changes to the scaffolding. Never make these changes yourself – remember, our lifesaving rule is: "We never alter scaffold or fall protection."

7. COMMUNICATION AND EXCLUSION ZONES

Effective communication is vital, especially when working on scaffolds. Let the contractors around you know if you plan to undertake any hazardous work. Set up exclusion zones around the areas below where overhead work is taking place.

8. NO SHORTCUTS

Don't compromise safety for convenience. Always use the designated access points when moving between work areas, e.g., from scaffold to roof or when moving from the midfloor to ground floor. There should never be a reason for anyone to climb over or through the scaffold guardrails. Avoid passing materials or tools through the rails.

9. REPORT CONCERNS

If you notice any issues with the scaffold, whether it's instability, damage, or other contractors not using it correctly or altering it, report it immediately to the site manager. Addressing problems promptly can prevent accidents down the line.

Conclusion:

As we wrap up, remember that scaffold safety is everyone's responsibility. By adhering to proper procedures, staying vigilant, and looking out for one another, we can ensure a safe and productive work environment. Let's commit to implementing these safety measures in our daily operations to protect ourselves and our colleagues. Thank you for your attention, and let's keep building safely!

Where to find more information about scaffold safety:

- **Scaffolding in New Zealand – Good Practice Guidelines, WorkSafe (November 2016).**

