

## PAINT SHOP SAFETY PROCEDURES

Painters are faced with many different environments. Painters must be concerned with proper ventilation and lighting when painting building interiors. Inclement weather and people in close proximity to the work site are concerns when painting building exteriors. In either case, the worker must be aware of all possible hazards, proper ladder and scaffold usage, and the proper lifting techniques for heavy objects.

### Shop Safety

- ♦ Always be aware of the surroundings. Walk with care in the shop to avoid spilling any containers.
- ♦ When cleaning brushes, keep the brush inside the bucket to avoid splattering paint into your eyes or a co-worker's eyes.
- ♦ While goggles are not mandatory during cleaning they are recommended. Gloves are to be worn to protect the skin against cleaning agents.
- ♦ Some materials are kept on shelves out of reach. Use the proper ladder or stepladder to reach these items. Do not stand on boxes, paint cans, or chairs. Take time to get the safest ladder.

### Interior Painting Safety Hazards

- ♦ Inadequate ventilation is the first and foremost hazard when painting indoors. When the work is being performed in an unventilated area, carry along a fan and extension cord.
- ♦ Another problem is slipping caused by a tarp being placed haphazardly. Take time to put down the tarp and secure it to the floor with tape.
- ♦ Take care when placing appropriate warning signs for people. Place them at a level and in a position where the majority of people can see them easily.

### Exterior Painting Safety Hazards

- ♦ When using the paint gun it is important to release the pressure that can build up in the container.
- ♦ When spraying outdoors, be aware of the direction of any wind. On high-wind days, do not spray paint.
- ♦ Always be sure of the footing before setting up a ladder, scaffold, or Hi Ranger. Also, be aware of electrical lines when handling ladders and scaffolds.
- ♦ Do not allow any part of the body to enter the paint gun pattern.

### Rules for Operating Hi Ranger (Aerial Lift)

- ♦ See SAFETY RULES FOR OPERATION OF HI-RANGER (Aerial Lift), Chapter 21, of this manual.

### Ladder Safety

- ♦ See LADDER SAFETY, Chapter 22, of this manual.

Scaffold Usage

The following guidelines are from OSHA. They are the "general requirements for all scaffolds."

- ♦ Scaffolds need to be furnished and built when you cannot do your work safely from the ground or from solid construction, except where ladders will suffice.
- ♦ The footing or anchorage for scaffolds shall be sound, rigid, and capable of carrying the maximum intended load without settling or displacement. Unstable objects such as barrels, boxes, loose brick, or concrete blocks should not be used to support scaffolds or planks.
- ♦ Guardrails and toe boards shall be installed on all open sides and ends of platforms more than 10 feet above the ground or floor except:
  - Scaffolding inside of a building and covering the entire floor area of any room therein and not having any side exposed to a hoist way, elevator shaft, stairwell, or other floor openings, or
  - Needle-beam scaffolds and floats in use by structural ironworkers.
- ♦ All guardrails should be 2 x 4 inches or the equivalent, installed no less than 36 inches or not more than 42 inches high, with a midrail, when required, of 1 x 4 inch lumber or equivalent. Supports should be at intervals not to exceed ten feet. Toe boards shall be a minimum of 4 inches in height.
- ♦ Scaffolds and their components shall be capable of supporting, without failure, at least four times the maximum intended load.
- ♦ Scaffolds and other devices mentioned or described in this section shall be maintained in safe condition. Scaffolds shall not be altered or moved horizontally while they are in use or occupied.
- ♦ Any scaffold damaged or weakened from any cause shall be immediately repaired and shall not be used until repairs have been completed.
- ♦ Scaffolds shall not be loaded in excess of the working load for which they are intended.
- ♦ All load-carrying timber members of scaffold framing shall be a minimum of 1,500 f. (Stress Grade) construction grade lumber. All dimensions are nominal sizes as provided in the American Lumber Standards, except that where rough sizes are noted, only rough or undressed lumber of the size specified will satisfy minimum requirements.
- ♦ All planking shall be Scaffold Grade as recognized by grading rules for the species of wood used. The maximum permissible spans for 2 x 9 inch or wider planks are shown in the following table:

MATERIAL	FULL THICKNESS UNDRESSED LUMBER			NORMAL THICKNESS LUMBER	
	25	50	75	25	50
Working Load (p.s.f.)	25	50	75	25	50
Permissible span (ft)	10	8	6	8	9

The maximum permissible span for 1-1/4 x 9 inch or wider plank of full thickness is 4 feet with medium loading of 50 p.s.f.

- ♦ Nails or bolts used in the construction of scaffolds shall be of adequate size and in ample numbers at each connection to develop the proper strength of the scaffold. Make sure that the nails are driven in completely.

- ♦ All planking or platforms must be overlapped (minimum 12 inches) or secured from movement.
- ♦ An access ladder or equivalent safe access must be provided for those using the scaffold.
- ♦ Scaffold planks shall extend over their end supports not less than 6 inches or more than 18 inches.
- ♦ The poles, legs, or uprights of scaffolds shall be plumb, and securely and rigidly braced to prevent swaying and displacement.
- ♦ Materials being hoisted onto a scaffold shall have a tag line.
- ♦ Overhead protection shall be provided for people on a scaffold exposed to overhead hazards.
- ♦ Scaffolds shall be provided with a screen between the toe board and the guardrail, extending along the entire opening, consisting of No. 18 Gauge U.S. Standard Wire one-half inch mesh or the equivalent, where persons are required to work or pass under the scaffolds.
- ♦ No one may work on scaffolds during storms or high winds.
- ♦ No one may work on scaffolds that are covered with ice or snow, unless all ice or snow is removed and planking sanded to prevent slipping.
- ♦ Tools, materials, and debris shall not be allowed to accumulate in quantities that would cause a hazard.
- ♦ Only treated or protected fiber rope shall be used for or near any work involving the use of corrosive substances or chemicals.
- ♦ Wire or fiber rope used for scaffold suspension shall be capable of supporting at least six times the intended load.
- ♦ When acid solutions are used for cleaning buildings over 50 feet in height, wire rope supported scaffolds shall be used.
- ♦ The use of shore scaffolds or lean-to scaffolds is prohibited.
- ♦ Scaffolds shall be secured to permanent structures through use of anchor bolts, reveal bolts, or other equivalent means. Window cleaners' anchor bolts shall not be used.
- ♦ Special precautions shall be taken to protect scaffold members, including any wire or fiber ropes, when using a heat-producing process. The best advice here is to use the "buddy system."