ConstructionSkills Tool Box Talk

No. 28 Mobile scaffold towers

Prepare Location? Distractions? Talk aids?
Reason Mobile towers must be erected in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions and only by competent persons.
Why Use a mobile tower correctly or you could find yourself seriously injured or even worse.
Outline This talk will cover erection, use, stability and hazards.

Before erecting the tower

1. Check all components are in a good condition.
2. Check wheels for effective rotation.
3. Check brakes and locking devices work correctly.
4. Before erecting a tower on a suspended floor, ensure the bearing capacity of the floor is sufficient for the planned load.

Q: What must be checked before erecting a tower on a suspended floor?

Before use

1. Ensure the tower is vertical and square.
2. The wheels must be locked when the tower is not being moved.
3. If fitted, check that outriggers are set correctly and secured.
4. Ensure the platform is fully boarded out and guard-rails and toe-boards are fitted if a fall could result in serious injury.
5. The gap between toe-boards and mid guard-rails, and between mid and top guard-rails, must not exceed 470 mm.

Q: When should toe-boards and guard-rails be fitted?

Access to platform

1. Always use the built-in stairway or ladder. If it is a vertical ladder, always climb it on the inside of the tower.
2. Follow manufacturer's instructions on base to height ratio.
3. Be aware of danger of overturning tower if hoisting materials.
4. Tie the tower to a permanent structure where possible.
5. Don't move the tower if people or materials are still on the platform. Don't pull the tower along while standing on it.

Q: How would you hoist materials on to a working platform?

Hazards

1. Don't exceed manufacturer's SWL (safe working load) for the tower.
2. When moving towers, ensure there are no potholes, obstructions or overhead power lines in the way.
3. When working, ensure the access hatch is closed on the platform.
4. Never use ladders or steps on a scaffold platform as this will cause the tower to turn over.
5. Towers must only be used on firm surfaces. Where the ground is soft, adequate support must be provided.
6. Always close the hatch as soon as everyone is on the working platform.

Q: What hazards must be considered when moving a tower?

Do you have any questions for me?

Questions for you

Q: Outline one pre-erection and one pre-use check.
Q: Outline one stability consideration and one hazard.

REMEMBER AFTER MOVING A TOWER AND BEFORE USE, WHEELS MUST BE LOCKED.

Further information

- *Construction Site Safety* (GE 700) – Module C4
- *Site Safety Simplified* (GE 706) – Chapter 5

TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT PLAN

SHORT TRAINING SESSION ATTENDANCE SHEET

Title: Tool Box Talk No. 28 Mobile scaffold towers	**Date** .....
Location	**Start time** .....
Duration (minutes)	**End time** .....
Presenter's name	**Presenter's signature** .....

Candidate's name	Name of candidate's employer	Candidate's signature

CITB-ConstructionSkills grants scheme - claim information

Note: Claims can only be made for your employees or labour-only subcontractors

No. attended	Duration	Total time	Employer reference