Work Platforms and Scaffolding

Work platforms and scaffolding shall comply with fall protection (FP) and appropriate access requirements of Sections Fall Protection and Safe Access.

a) All requirements of this Section shall be applied to work platforms and means of access.

b) Standard railings and handrails for stairs shall be in compliance with the requirements of Sections Handrails and Stairways.

c) Standard guardrails shall be in compliance with Section Standard Guardrail Systems.
   1) Cross bracing is acceptable in place of a midrail when the crossing point of two braces is between 20 in (0.5 m) and 30 in (0.8 m) above the work platform.
   2) Cross bracing is acceptable as a toprail when the crossing point of two braces is between 38 in (0.97 m) and 48 in (1.3 m) above the work platform.
   3) The end points at each upright shall be no more than 48 in (1.3 m) apart.
   4) Cross bracing shall not be used for both a midrail and top rail.

d) Personal FP devices shall be in compliance with Section Personal Fall Protection Systems.

e) Safety (FP) nets shall be in compliance with the requirements of Section Safety Net Systems for Fall Protection.

f) Ladders used to access scaffolds and work platforms shall be in compliance with the requirements of this Section and Section Ladders.

Prior to commencing any activity that requires work in elevated areas, all provisions for access and fall protection shall be delineated in the Site-Specific Fall Protection and Prevention Plan and Activity Hazard Analysis (AHA), per Section Wood Pole Scaffolds, and accepted by the GDA for the activity. For specific guidance related to erecting and disassembling scaffolds, see Section Scaffolds, Work Platforms and Elevating/Aerial Devices.

The following hierarchy and prohibitions shall be followed in selecting appropriate work platforms.

a) Scaffolds, platforms, or temporary floors shall be provided for all work except that which can be performed safely from the ground or similar footing.
b) Ladders may be used as work platforms only when allowed by Section Ladders.

c) Ladder jacks, lean-to, and prop-scaffolds are prohibited.

d) Emergency descent devices shall not be used as working platforms. Work platforms and scaffolds shall not be erected or used in the immediate vicinity of power lines or electrical conductors until such are insulated, de-energized, or otherwise rendered safe against accidental contact. (See Section Operations Adjacent to Overhead Lines)