

## Safety Overview - Narrow Frame Scaffolds (Baker Scaffold)

Narrow frame scaffolds, also known as Baker/Perry style scaffolds, are among the most popular pieces of construction equipment. Due to their versatility, many contractors use them instead of ladders because they allow workers to maintain their balance and work more easily from the platform.

### What is a Narrow Frame Scaffold?

A narrow frame scaffold, with the end frame measuring 3 feet or less in width, has wheels and is often used as a mobile scaffold. (see Figure 1.) Designed to be easily moved, they are used for operations such as painting, drywall installation, plastering and other jobs where workers must frequently change position. Scaffolds can be adapted to stairs, ramps and other uneven surfaces. In some instances, scaffolds may be a better and safer choice than ladders.

### Minimizing Hazards

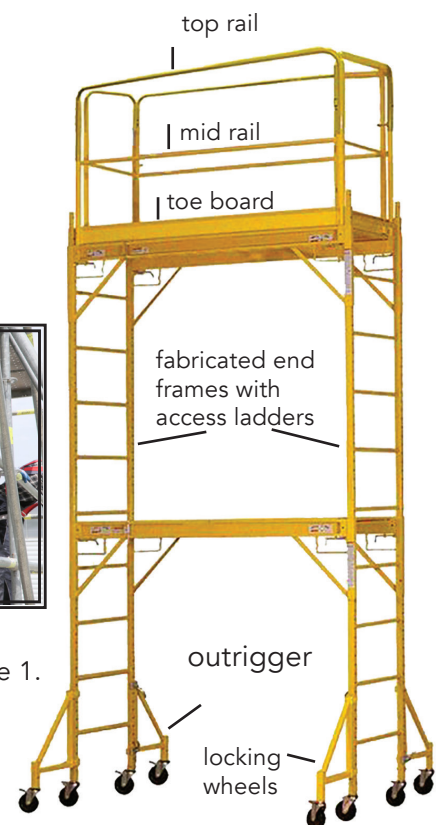
Some of the hazards associated with narrow frame scaffolds can lead to personal injury or death.

They include:

- Falls from an elevated level
- Tip-overs
- Electric shocks
- Structural failures (collapse)



Figure 1.



### Training workers in scaffold safety

- Under the Occupational Safety and Health Act, employers are responsible for providing a safe workplace.
- Training must be conducted in a manner and language which the worker is able to understand.
- Only trained and authorized persons should be allowed to use a scaffold. This training must be provided by a qualified person who recognizes the hazards associated with the type of scaffold being used and who understands the procedures to control or minimize those hazards.
- Training must include how to safely:
  - Use the scaffold and determine the maximum load limits when handling materials.
  - Recognize and avoid scaffolding hazards such as electric shock, falls from heights and being hit by falling objects.
  - Erect, inspect, move, operate, maintain and repair scaffolds.

For more information on scaffolding, see OSHA's Safety and Health Topics page at [www.osha.gov/SLTC/scaffolding](http://www.osha.gov/SLTC/scaffolding).  
Top rail Locking wheels Outrigger Midrail Toe.

Source: MarketWise for MidSouth Insurance Company