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Talk No: 10 Title: MOBILE TOWER SCAFFOLDS

Introduction: Mobile tower scaffolds provide a very useful and efficient working platform for numerous tasks when used properly. When misused, they provide a means of serious injury to both users and other employees.

## Main points:

- Plan use of mobile tower scaffolds. Ensure SWL's are sufficient, that manufacturer's guidelines are complied with, and that a competent person is available to erect, adjust and dismantle.
- Check all mobile tower scaffolds prior to use; check general condition, check brakes/locking devices are working, check free rotation of wheels, check all bracings are in place, and check for suitable access/egress and for suitable platform.
- Where height exceeds 2m then guard-rails, intermediate guard-rails and toe-boards must be fitted (note this is a minimum requirement – recommended that they be fitted regardless of height).

## **Discussion points:**

- Check manufacturers guide for base to height ratio. General rule is that the height should not exceed 3 times the narrowest base width, i.e. where narrowest base width equals 1.5m, height should not exceed 4.5m. (Note: this can be extended by use of outriggers.)
- Mobile tower scaffolds should only be used on level, firm surfaces. If surface is soft or not level then should only be used where adequate support is provided.
- Wheels should be locked whenever the tower is in use.
- Only integral ladders should be used on no account rest ladders against outside, or use ladders off of mobile tower platforms.
- Ensure all persons and materials are removed from mobile tower scaffolds prior to moving, move by pushing at the base, avoid potholes/uneven surfaces, and beware of overhead obstructions – especially power lines!
- Mobile tower platforms should be fully boarded out where practicable must be a minimum of 600mm wide.
- Consider tying the tower to structures where applicable.

	SO URGENT THAT IT CAN'T BE DONE SAFELY!
Notes:	