

# Discussion Guide – Mobile Scaffolds



## Scenario

You are part of a three-person crew removing company brand material from a retail site that is being sold. To remove the canopy bullnose fascia (right), your crew must use the highest deck of the mobile scaffolding.

**Q1: What are the hazards of doing this task?**

**Q2: How can you mitigate these hazards?**

## What happened next?

While one co-worker was on the highest deck of the scaffold, his co-worker moved the scaffold to position it for the next piece of fascia. The first co-worker lost his balance and fell from the scaffold and hit his head on the concrete.

### Why did the incident occur?

- The primary reason this incident occurred is because the platform was moved while the worker was on it.
- The highest deck was raised to allow access to the canopy bullnose fascia which led to inadequate railing height.
- The first worker was tied off to a scaffold cross-member that couldn't support his weight when he fell.

**Q3: Have you seen these activities in your business?**

**Q4: How can you prevent this type of incident in your business?**



# Discussion Guide – Instructor notes



**Instructions:** This scenario can be used as a safety moment for any team, but is primarily focused on workers who use mobile scaffolds. As the facilitator of the discussion, it is recommended that you pass out copies of the 1st page discussion guide. Have the team members read the scenario, then you lead the discussion. The objective is to engage your team to explore the hazard and develop actions for your team to reduce the risk.

**Some things to look for in the discussion on the questions.**

**Question 1:**

The primary hazard of this activity is falling from heights. Secondary hazard is dropped objects.

**Question 2:**

- Mitigations for falling from heights include:
- Proper use of fall protection.
- Proper handrails
- Do not move the scaffold while workers are on the scaffold.
- Maintain centre of gravity within the handrails.

**Question 3:**

Ask participants if they have seen people doing things like adjusting decking which reduces handrail height, moving scaffolds while workers are on the scaffold, incorrect use of fall protection.

**Question 4:**

- Make sure employees fully understand the design and risks of mobile scaffolds and improper use of fall protection.
- Conduct refresher training on Working at Heights, including proper use of fall protection.
- Find options to do the work in a safer manner (such as using a man lift, scissors lift, fixed scaffold, etc).
- Reinforce the Golden Rule on Working at Heights with workers who do this activity.
- Conduct self verification of activities that include working at heights.