

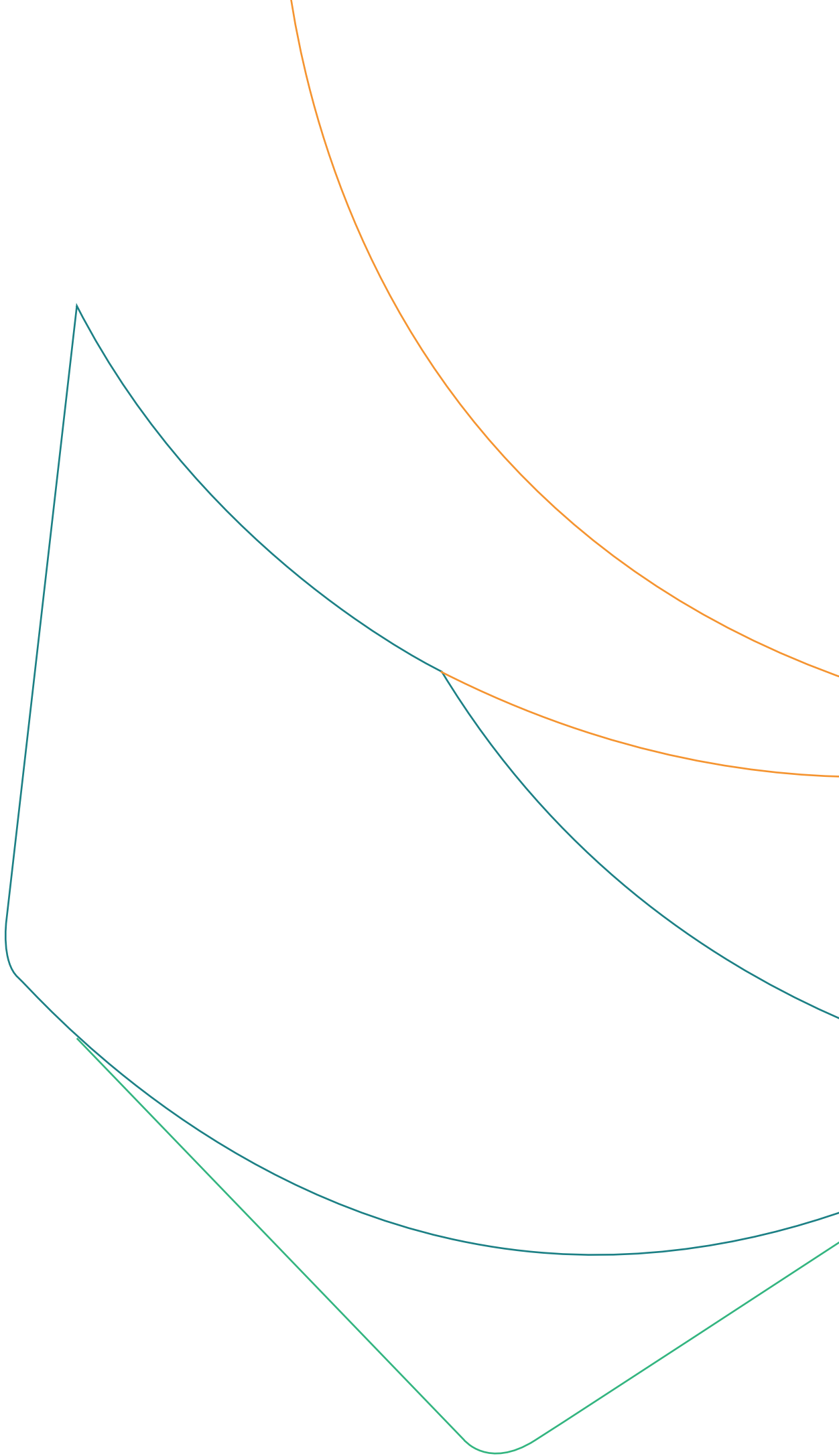


National Council for  
Occupational Safety & Health

# Guidance Manual for Preventive Measures at Construction Sites



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## Introduction

Occupational safety and health are the cornerstone of building a safe and productive work environment. They are not limited to establishing rules and regulations but also include raising workers' awareness, empowering them to identify hazards and ways to prevent them, and embedding a culture that makes safety a part of daily behavior at the workplace. From this perspective, this awareness guide on occupational safety and health serves as a simple and practical tool to help workers and supervisors understand the basic principles of safety, adhere to preventive measures, and act appropriately in emergency situations.



## First: Warning Systems\ warning means

At construction sites, there are many hidden hazards that require clear warning and alerting measures. While the foundation of safety lies in eliminating hazards, complete elimination is not always possible. Therefore, it becomes essential to control, warn, and alert about these hazards. This highlights the importance of using warning means, some of which are listed below:

### Warning Tapes

These tapes are typically used to define safe boundaries around hazardous areas and to warn individuals against entering them.

Examples of such areas include:

- Radiographic testing zones, which pose the risk of exposure to radioactive materials.
- Electrical panel testing areas, where high-voltage testing takes place, posing risks of electric shock.
- Excavation sites, where there is a danger of falling.
- Work-at-height areas, with risks of falling from elevated positions.
- Pipe pressure testing zones (air or water), which present severe and potentially fatal hazards.

Therefore, these warning tapes are placed to prevent workers or passersby from entering restricted zones.

It is strictly prohibited to tamper with or remove these tapes unless after consulting the relevant safety department.

### Warning Signs

Warning signs are used in certain areas and work activities to indicate the presence of specific hazards, warn against hidden risks, or discourage unsafe behaviors that may lead to accidents.

Colors are used in these signs to identify the type and level of hazard, helping workers recognize the degree of danger and take the necessary precautions to ensure their safety.

There are several types of warning signs, including:

- Prohibition signs
- Mandatory signs
- Warning signs
- Safe condition signs
- Information signs
- Firefighting equipment signs



Look for the warning signs in your work area and follow the instructions written on them.



## Second: Scaffolds

Scaffolds are among the most commonly used equipment at worksites in general, and especially at construction sites. Like any other equipment, they must be kept in good condition — otherwise, they pose a serious risk to workers. Working on scaffolds can lead to falls from height if the scaffold is unsafe or if unsafe behaviors occur during work.

Therefore, it is essential to use identification tags whenever scaffolds are present at the site. These tags indicate whether the scaffold is safe or unsafe for use, and they are used as follows:

### 1. Green Tag:

Indicates that the scaffold has been erected according to proper specifications and is ready for use.  
(It must still be inspected before use.)

### 2. Red Tag:

Indicates that the scaffold is either incomplete or in the process of being dismantled.  
Its use is strictly prohibited under any circumstances.

### 3. Yellow Tag:

Indicates that the scaffold may be used only if the worker is wearing a fall-protection harness.

### 4. Scaffold Without a Tag:

Must not be used at all until it has been inspected by the qualified scaffold technician and the appropriate tag has been attached.

In summary, any scaffold without a tag is strictly prohibited for use until it has been inspected and properly labeled.

## Precautions to Be Followed by Workers

1. Inspect the condition of scaffolds and their components before each work shift and after any accident or near-miss, ensuring their safety and stability.
2. Do not modify or alter any part of the scaffold. Any change must be reviewed and approved by the qualified scaffold technician.
3. Ensure the presence of barriers, such as anti-slip boards or protective nets, to prevent people or objects from falling downward.
4. Secure the area around the scaffolds with warning tapes, safety signs, and protective barriers to ensure safe movement around or underneath them.
5. Make sure that scaffold platforms are equipped with toe boards or edge barriers along the sides and edges of the platform floor to prevent tools and materials from falling.
6. Verify the availability and use of appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) for scaffold work.
7. Ensure that the scaffold is provided with a proper ladder or safe access for climbing up and down.
8. Do not climb the scaffold unless it has an integrated or securely fixed ladder.
9. Always wear a safety harness when there is a risk of falling from a height of 1.8 meters or more.

## Third: Heavy Equipment

Heavy equipment such as excavators, cranes, large trucks, and similar machinery are widely used at construction sites. They are primarily utilized for operations involving excavation, backfilling, grading, unloading, scraping, lifting, paving, and other related tasks.

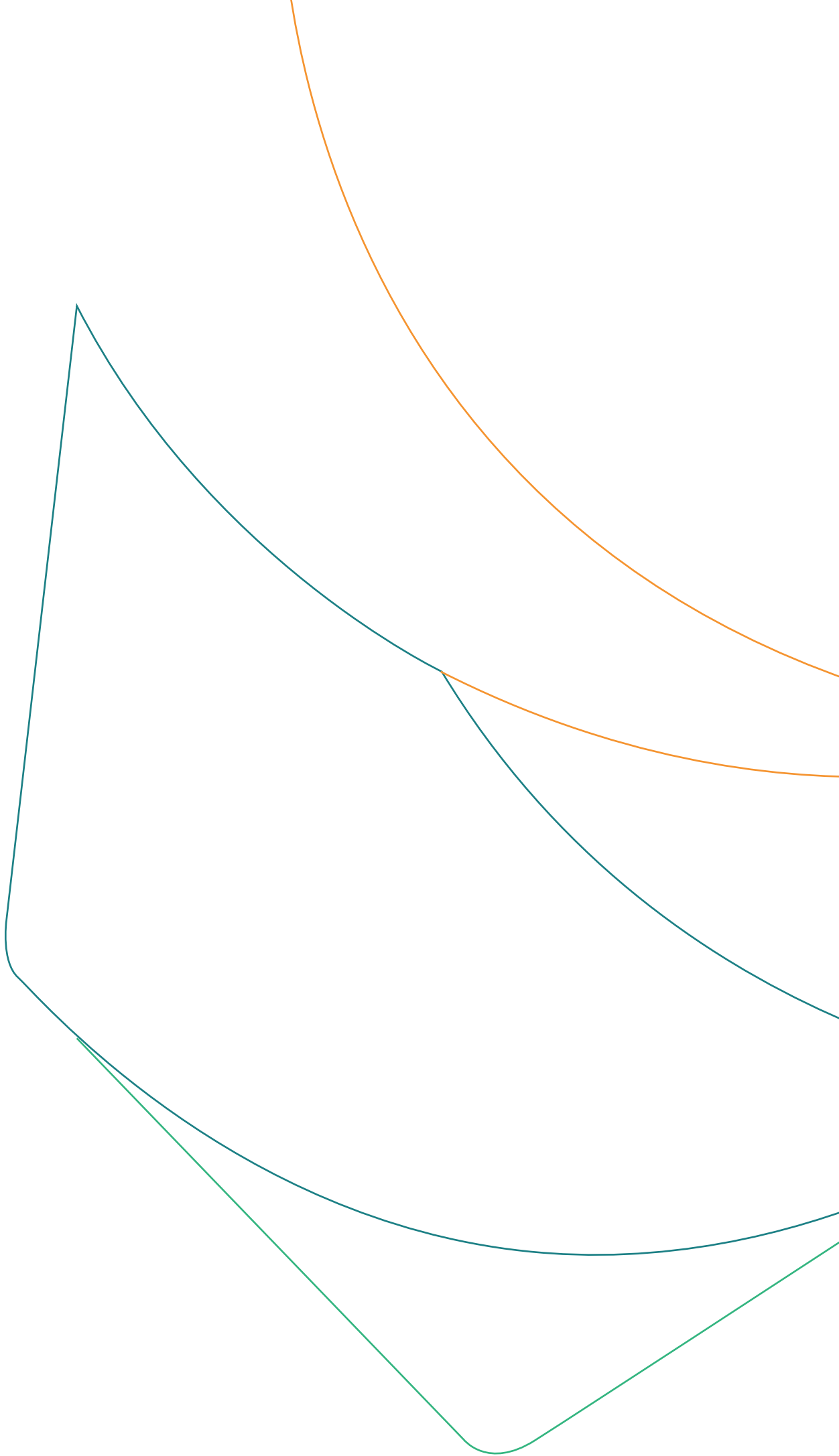
## Precautions to Be Followed by Workers

1. Obtain and follow the safety instructions specific to each piece of equipment.
2. Do not operate any equipment without holding a valid operator's license (for equipment that requires one).



3. Use warning tapes and signs around equipment that rotates or swings (such as excavators and cranes) to prevent workers or pedestrians from entering hazardous zones and being struck.
4. Notify the relevant authorities before beginning excavation work to verify the location of underground utilities (e.g., sewage, water, gas, electricity) that may pose hazards if struck by machinery.
5. Ensure that the equipment is equipped with a functional fire extinguisher.
6. Verify that the equipment has a working reverse warning alarm that activates automatically when the transmission lever is shifted into reverse.
7. Check that mirrors are installed to provide the best possible rear and side visibility.
8. Maintain a safe distance between the equipment and nearby structures, materials, or workers.
9. Be cautious of overhead high-voltage power lines, as they pose serious risks to both the operator and the machine.
10. Never refuel the equipment while the engine is running—always turn off the engine first.
11. Always use the seat belt while operating the machine to minimize injury risk in case of equipment rollover.







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