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EDITOR’S NOTES

LET US KNOW – AND LET THE INDUSTRY KNOW

Cathee Johnson Phillips

The Scaffold & Access (SA) Magazine is the official voice of the Scaffold & Access Industry Association (SAIA). Being published in the SA Magazine is an effective way to let the industry know about your challenging projects and to share your expertise while helping to make the industry safe for all workers.

Are there topics you would like us to address? Some of the topics we are pursuing for upcoming issues include:

- Overload protection
- Pendant controls
- Using drones on job sites
- Women in the SAIA and the industry.

Plan Ahead

The magazine content is planned months ahead of each issue – so getting your suggestions and articles to us as soon as possible is advised. For press releases, which we include first come, first served, as room allows in Industry News, the turnaround time is less.

Please submit your suggestions and articles to me via email, cathee@saiaonline.org. For more details on issue themes and content deadlines, download the current Media Kit from the SAIA website. Just click on “News & Media” to find the page.

And, please consider taking a few minutes to complete the SA Magazine Reader Survey at https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SAIAreadersurvey. That will help us to serve you better.

We so appreciate all who have written and submitted articles and who write columns for us on a regular basis. Thank you, everyone, for making the SA Magazine a relevant and informative industry publication! I hope you enjoy this issue and look forward to hearing from you soon!

Sincerely,

Cathee Johnson Phillips
Editor

P.S. Advertisers, you’ll be glad to know that our readers pay attention to your ads! Survey respondents say that they have contacted you (87%), visited your websites (89%), or purchased products advertised in the magazine (69%).

The SA Magazine would like to interview women in the SAIA and the industry for an upcoming special feature. We would like to explore how women begin working in the industry and how the industry can draw more women into the workforce. To participate, contact the editor via email, cathee@saiaonline.org.

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The establishment and promotion of best safety practices in the scaffold and access industry does not happen overnight. It requires untold hours – often over a course of years – of thoughtful discussion and research by dedicated volunteers from across the industry. It requires the open sharing of information and experiences. This is the behind-the-scenes work of the Scaffold & Access Industry Association (SAIA), and this work is done over email, during conference calls, and at meetings, with the support of the association staff.

Most recently, the Code of Safe Practices for Erecting & Dismantling of Frame Shoring has been updated and is now waiting on final approval from the Regulatory & Review Committee. Many other resources, such as guidelines and tip sheets, are also in development or review.

The SAIA committees and councils lead this work throughout the year. The 2019 Annual Convention & Exposition will provide many opportunities for members and friends to come together and discuss – and learn about – the latest developments in best safety practices. For example, the Executive Committee and staff will meet to discuss current initiatives, new initiatives, proposed budgets for the next fiscal year, and the strategic plan.

Please join us at the convention, which will take place this year in New Orleans on September 23-26. As described in the convention preview article in this issue, there are many benefits to attending – and your participation will in turn benefit the association and the industry. Plus, New Orleans is a fun place to visit! Registration is available on the SAIA website (https://www.saiaonline.org/annualconvention).

Karen and I hope to see you there!
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What’s up with this tagging thing on scaffolds? Some think tagging is mandated by the Occupational Safety & Health Administration (OSHA). Others think that it magically solves scaffold safety issues. Others even think that the tags will keep them from getting injured or killed. If that were true, it’s likely that every vehicle in North America would have a tag!

What is a scaffold tag system? It is a system that probably started in the refineries more than forty years ago. It typically consists of three tags, a red tag, a yellow tag, and a green tag. The tag is attached to a scaffold in a conspicuous place such as a stairway or ladder and is used to indicate the status of the scaffold. Red normally means the scaffold is incomplete or hazardous and cannot be used. A yellow tag, at a minimum, means that there is something extraordinary about the scaffold that the scaffold user needs to know. The green tag indicates that the scaffold is complete and safe to use. This is the basic concept of the scaffold tagging system. From here, things take a turn towards confusion.

First, is a system tag mandatory, that is, required by government regulatory agencies such as the federal OSHA? The answer is no. However, OSHA does require scaffold inspections; 29 CFR 1926.451(f)(3) clearly states that scaffold inspections are to be conducted by a competent person (one who is capable of identifying hazards and has the authority to eliminate them) prior to each workshift and after any occurrence that may affect the structural integrity of the scaffold. There are no requirements that the inspection be documented.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, on the other hand, does require a tagging system. In its manual, No. EM 385-1-1, Section 22.A.01, it requires that “A scaffold tagging system shall be used. All scaffolds are tagged by the competent person (CP). Tags shall include name and signature of the CP; include dates of initial and all daily inspections; be readily visible, legible, and made from materials that will withstand the elements; include wording that states one of the following: Scaffold is complete and safe to use, or scaffold is incomplete, not ready for use and the reason, or scaffold is incomplete and unsafe to use.” Note that there is no mention of tag color.

Second, consensus standards (industry-accepted practices) address the tagging of scaffolds. The American National Standards Institute (ANSI) scaffold standard A10.8 addresses a tagging system. In Section 4.8, the standard requires that “a notification system (note that it does not say a tag) shall be used to inform workers of the status and condition of the scaffold that includes at least the following information: Completed, inspected by a competent person, and ready for use (date, inspector/competent person); or, Partially completed, not ready for use (why, date, inspector/competent person); or, This scaffold is unsafe, not ready for use.” A10.8 also references Appendix E where a sample scaffold tagging program, sample tags, and a sample scaffold log can be found.

Now comes the exciting part. What’s the purpose of all this stuff and more particularly, what hazard does a tagging system address? Since a tagging system is an indicator for scaffold users that a scaffold has been looked at by someone who can determine if it is safe, it is very important to emphasize that the tagging system only works if everyone behaves. For a tagging system to work, it must be accurate. It can only be accurate if the scaffold is not modified except under the supervision of a competent person qualified in scaffold erection. Once the modification is complete, the scaffold must be inspected by a competent person and

Since a tagging system is an indicator for scaffold users that a scaffold has been looked at by someone who can determine if it is safe, it is very important to emphasize that the tagging system only works if everyone behaves.

Have a technical question for SA Magazine you’d like to see answered here? Let us know! Send an email to dhg@glabeconsulting.com with your question.
the tag updated. This requires good behavior on the jobsite. At industrial sites, such as refineries, where a scaffold crew is normally on-site, and the other trades understand and appreciate that they cannot modify scaffolds, the tagging system is effective. On commercial and institutional sites, experience indicates that behavior isn’t so exemplar.

And of course, once an unauthorized modification is made, the attached tag becomes meaningless.

Fortunately, there is a back-up plan in case of this type of situation. In fact, the OSHA regulations have addressed it by requiring everyone to be responsible. How so, you may ask? Well, here’s how.

First, all scaffolds shall be designed by a qualified person, an individual who knows what loads will be applied to the scaffold, the configuration of the scaffold, and the use of the scaffold [29 CFR 1926.451(a)(6)]. Second, the scaffold must be constructed according to the plan [29 CFR 1926.451(a)]. Third, all scaffolds shall be erected by trained and experienced workers, under the supervision of a competent person (one who is capable of identifying existing hazards and has authority to eliminate them) qualified in scaffold erection (one, who by degree, certificate or professional standing, or by training and experience, can demonstrate an ability to correctly erect a scaffold) [29 CFR 1926.451(f)(7)]. Fourth, the scaffold erectors shall be adequately trained so they know how to safely erect the scaffold, know the purpose for which the scaffold is being erected, know the strength of the scaffold being erected, and the loads the scaffold is expected to support [29 CFR 1926.454(b)]. Fifth, once the scaffold is complete, it shall be inspected by a competent person prior to each workshift and after any occurrence where the structural integrity of the scaffold may be compromised [29 CFR 1926.451(f)(3)]. And sixth, all scaffold users shall be trained so they can recognize that the scaffold has been constructed correctly. This training should include falls, falling object, electrocution, and access hazards. It is also expected that the user will know the strength of the scaffold, and the weight of the loads being applied to the scaffold [29 CFR 1926.454(a)].

Frankly, if employees (and employers) complied with these six requirements, there would be no need for a tagging system. These six items illustrate that the tagging system does not give the scaffold user a free pass. Just because a scaffold has a tag on it does not make it a safe scaffold make, nor does it release the scaffold user from his/her obligation to recognize what a safe scaffold is. Tag, you’re it.

About the Author
David H. Glabe, P.E., is President of Glabe Consulting Services Inc. and Founder and Partner of DH Glabe and Associates. Glabe is SAIA’s Regulatory Liaison. Contact him at dhg@glabeconsulting.com.
In September of 2018 the coast of North Carolina was hit by Hurricane Florence, a slow-moving storm that spent hours battering the entire region with high winds and storm surges, while flooding lakes and rivers with nearly 36 inches of rain. With headquarters in Durham, North Carolina, and branches throughout the Southeast, Associated Scaffolding Co., Inc. was well placed to help its neighbors recover, restore, and re-build their lives.

When the Bask Hotel at Big Rock Landing in Morehead City needed to renovate its storm damaged exterior, Associated Scaffolding was called upon to assist and provide a safe means of access for the job. Associated Scaffolding was tasked with providing complete access around the entire hotel, but the 110-foot-tall scaffold erection offered many challenges. The design team knew that teamwork and diverse scaffold systems were important keys to getting the job done. Since Bask Hotel is located on the waterfront, high winds and springtime thunderstorms challenged the erection team while building the scaffold. Various methods were used to tie the scaffold into the building including compression ties, mechanical fastening, and concrete anchors. To prevent environmental impact from the installation of the new exterior insulation and finish system (EIFS), which could cause Styrofoam to blow into the nearby Bogue Sound, breathable debris netting was wrapped around the...
entire scaffold. Poly sheeting was wrapped over the top of the scaffold and secured behind the existing roof parapet using wooden members and a weighted system, thereby creating a rain barrier over the entire roof.

Associated Scaffolding’s extensive inventory provided the necessary equipment to meet the needs of this complex job. Ringlock system scaffold, stair towers, scaffold planks, re-shoring, debris chutes, and suspended platforms offered solutions during the exterior demolition and re-build process. Erectors worked closely with the demolition contractor and the stucco contractor in order to keep the hotel as weatherproof as possible. Communication, scheduling, and pre-construction sequencing were vital for all trades while sticking to the owner’s timeline.
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The erection team superintendent and crew leader always explored ways of moving equipment that were both safe and logistically sound. In order to do this, two track hoists were installed within the scaffold. These hoists enabled the stucco contractor to safely transport their materials to each deck level and provided the scaffold erectors another means of transporting scaffold components, instead of man-lining or using a pulley-wheel system.

Although the erectors were challenged by the ever-changing weather conditions, environmental concerns, use of different tie methods, the overall height of the scaffold, and time constraints, safety was always the top priority. Associated Scaffolding’s safety director conducted regular safety inspections to ensure compliance with standards, rules, regulations, and company policies. After the final walk through safety inspection was conducted, the team handed over to the customer the exact scaffold that was needed to rebuild this local landmark.

About the Author
Tommy Hawkins is President of Associated Scaffolding. Contact him at tommy.hawkins@associated-scaffolding.com.
How do you lift a 72,000-pound donut 500 feet in the air? With 12 traction hoists, an elite skilled trade crew, and very, very carefully.

“The donut” was the nickname given to the 106-foot-diameter starter platform that provided access for the recent $100 million renovation of the Space Needle. BrandSafway erected the donut on top of the Space Needle’s Skyline roof, which was itself 100 feet in the air, hoisted it 400 more feet, and secured it beneath the structure’s iconic “Tophouse.” After building out the platform to its full size (135 feet in diameter and 174,000 pounds), BrandSafway erected a 28-millimeter weather barrier that could withstand a 115-mph wind.
load using Systems Scaffold and track sections. When finished, BrandSafway had built the highest, most weather-protected, and safest temporary suspended work platform — ever. Its erection and progress made nightly news headlines.

Shortly after the initial lift, Karen Olson, chief marketing officer, Space Needle LLC, told Patrick Lynch, ArchDaily’s news editor: “This renovation project was a giant game of three-dimensional chess. Getting the elevated platform in place was our first big move. It hadn’t ever been done before. Our construction partners had to use a great deal of ingenuity and creativity to develop this plan. That plan – and great weather – allowed us to have a successful platform raising, which allowed us to remain open during construction.”

Executing a design from Olson Kundig, general contractor Hoffman Construction oversaw subcontractors that included BrandSafway (access), Front, Inc. (glazing

Custom clamps maintain alignment with the canoe beam, while a tab and slot design further increases strength.
advising), Tihany Design (Loupe area), Herzog Glass (barrier glass), Arup (electrical, mechanical and structural engineering), Breedt Production Tooling & Design (glass placement robot), Apex Steel (structural steel installer) and Fives Lund, LLC (rotating glass floor).

Key renovation elements included installing 176 tons of specialty glass and structural modifications so that the Space Needle could offer a seamless exterior line of sight to one of the world’s most dazzling cities. The new Oculus Stairs, made of glass, steel, and wood, wind down from the upper observation deck to the Loupe — the world’s first and only revolving glass floor — which allows a view of the ground 500 feet below.

Dubbed the Century Project, the Space Needle renovation ensured that
this icon will continue to define the Seattle skyline into the next century.

“The Space Needle became the visual icon of the city and a symbol for the spirit of Seattle. The original designers of the Space Needle dreamed big, and we continued their vision with this renovation,” said Olson. “With glass walls, glass barriers, glass benches, and even glass floors, visitors can feel like they’re floating over the city. The Space Needle has always featured some of the best views of the Pacific Northwest. Now it offers some of the most thrilling.”

“We built a jewel box in the sky,” said Bob Vincent, project manager, Hoffman Construction. “We wanted to execute the project beautifully to create a happy client while making sure our workers and the general public stayed safe. That’s why we partnered with BrandSafway to provide an access platform for all our crews while we were 500 feet in the air.”

Suspension Challenges

The Space Needle rises on three pairs of legs that surround a central core for freight and passenger elevators and mechanical and structural elements. At the top, structural steel elements include a ring beam, a large box beam that wraps the core, and 42 “canoe beams” or custom I-beams, that radiate out and curve upward to support the Tophouse elements. Renovation required access for the skilled trades to work below and around the Tophouse perimeters at both its lower level, the enclosed observation area, and upper level, the open-air observation deck.

Erecting 500 feet of traditional scaffold was possible, but drawbacks included material and labor expense and inhibiting foot traffic, which went against the owner’s desire to remain open during renovation. Because of the property’s small footprint and proximity to other structures, tower cranes could not be located in the right areas. As a result, this unique structure demanded an innovative suspended access solution.

“QuikDeck was a new system that we learned about through BrandSafway,” said Vincent. “The big challenge at the Space Needle was that we needed to work 500 feet in the air, and we couldn’t lift an entire work platform up at once. The system allowed creating a starter platform, lifting it to a fixed point and then building out. It’s like a Transformer happening in the sky, which was a huge advantage over trying to lift a completely built-up platform or traditional scaffolding. This system is certainly something we’d like to use in other applications.”

The system uses 8-foot trusses that connect to a central node via a pin and retainer clip system, with no special tools required. Once pinned, the trusses pivot outward to form squares or triangles. Workers then secure ¾-inch-thick sections of structural grade-one plywood with oil-sealed edges to provide a flat, stable, and sturdy work surface with a load rating of 25 to 75 lbs. per square foot. Grade-100 chain running through the central node extends upward and connects to beam clamps attached to the structure at hand. Once a starter platform has been erected, the system’s modular design allows a “leapfrog” style construction to build out the work surface.
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“Once Hoffman agreed on the new platform system, we had to figure out how to attach suspension points,” said Sean Drew, project manager at BrandSafway. “The structure provided us with some engineering challenges.”

Specifically, the canoe beams are stitched together rather than continuously welded. As a result, the beam clamps would need to be long enough to capture enough of the skip welds to handle the forces applied. Additionally, to eliminate the possibility of twisting, third-party engineering firm Magnusson Klemencic Associates determined that the canoe beams could only handle loads pulling in the direction of the beam and could not handle side loads.

“Since the system’s central nodes could not always be located in line with the canoe beams, we designed special beam clamps and a cross-tube system that spanned the gaps between the beams,” explained Paul Jolicoeur, technical manager, product applications, and the principal BrandSafway engineer for the project. “We could locate a suspension point anywhere around the outer and intermediate perimeters of the Space Needle.”

BrandSafway’s Infrastructure Services Group custom-designed and fabricated the beam clamps and cross-tube system. The cross-tubes feature a square tube within 6-5/8-inch-diameter round tube. The inner square tube can telescope to provide field adjustment and then bolts securely in place. In all, BrandSafway, Hoffman and third-party engineers spent the better part of a year developing the design.

“Notice how the ends of the square tubing overlap. This design provided a small degree of adjustment for good fit-up, and the bolts secured in place.”

Hoffman’s 3D model, confirm clamp locations, evaluate loads and check for clashes. You name it, we could model it and share data with the other engineering teams.”

Protection and Staging

More than one million people visit the Space Needle each year. To protect them, BrandSafway erected an elaborate series of overhead falling-object protection systems over the main entrance, valet parking area, and gift shop, all located on the south side. On the west side, 225 feet of standard sidewalk protection using Systems Scaffold, steel plank, and 3/4-inch plywood wrapped around, so visitors could access the Space Needle, a monorail to downtown, and the Museum of Pop Culture.

The main construction entrance was located on the north side of the property. Here, BrandSafway erected a series of overhead protection, stairs, and loading platforms for material removal and loading. A crane lifted material to a second-story location, where it would then move via freight elevator or by hoist. The Space Needle, as well as the final platform, featured a small notch to accommodate the hoist.

“This was a very complex project with a lot of safety challenges,” said Drew. “Yes, we erected overhead protection, but our goal was to eliminate dropped objects in the first place. We implemented a policy for 100-percent tethering of equipment and tools and used zippered bags to contain smaller items.”

“Nothing dropped on this project. Everything stayed in the air,” states Vincent. “Working 500 feet off the ground creates different dynamics than just working on the outside of a building.”

In addition to dropped objects, the wind load was a major concern. “Before we erected the weather barrier, the first windstorm hit. We went up there, 100-percent tied off, to do a sweep of the area to make sure nothing could
To secure the platform after form sections, "says Jolicoeur. "The wind blew 56 mph. People thought they might be nervous, but the platform was rock solid."

**Lift and Build**

The Skyline-level conference rooms, located at 100 feet, prevented hoisting a completely pre-built platform from ground level. As a result, Jolicoeur designed the starter platform so that it could be built on the Skyline roof. Because of its modular design, the platform components were easily hand-transported in the freight elevator.

Ultimately, the donut consisted of 12 major sections. Three curved segments, each with three subsections, were 16-feet wide. Three 8-foot-wide “bridge” segments provided clearance for the Space Needle’s legs as they flare out at the top. After securing all the platform sections, 12 two-part Tractel motorized wire rope hoists, each with an 8,800-lb. capacity, were secured to a platform node. A hoist spreader beam further secured the hoist to nodes on either side.

“We custom-designed and fabricated the hoist spreader beam and hoist connections for this project so that we could simultaneously lift all platform sections,” says Jolicoeur. To secure the platform after the lift, a rope access team installed a dozen beam clamps in precise locations designated by Jolicoeur.

“The clamps weigh 200 pounds each, so the rope access crew rigged a series of ropes from underneath and over the side of the Space Needle so that they could easily maneuver them,” says Jolicoeur. “Each clamp has eight bolts that require 90 to 100 foot-pounds of torque. The work done by the rope access team was amazing.” This work also included installing 12 sheave blocks, pre-threaded with 800 feet of wire rope for the hoist, on structural steel elements of the Space Needle’s Tophouse.

After starting access work on September 5, 2017, all components were in place for a lift on the clear, calm night of September 15. BrandSafway stationed one worker on each of the sections to monitor the hoists, eight workers on the Skyline level to manage the wire ropes, and three workers on some of the Space Needle’s cross-bracing elements at the 200-foot level, also to watch cables. All personnel were secured with lifelines at all times.

After starting, progress moved cautiously. The crew would lift for 10 feet, stop, recheck lifelines and cables, relevel the platform, and then move up another 10 feet. After reaching its final height, the workers secured the platform to the pre-installed beam clamps. The process took two nerve-wracking hours.

“This was a very complex job. I was incredibly nervous because no one had ever done a lift like this before, but I have great trust in our engineering department and crew,” said Drew. “Paul Jolicoeur provided incredible support, and Site Foreman Jake Willis watched over the crew to keep everyone safe.”

**Dismantle**

During erection, the team could pass materials through several holes in the Loupe’s glass floor. With the Loupe now complete, bringing platform and barrier materials out through the freight elevator wasn’t possible. The only option was lowering them down via the Space Needle’s hoist.

“Because we had to maintain the structural integrity of the platform, as well as manage the forces from the wind, the engineering work for the dismantle was at least as challenging as the erection,” says Drew. “We divided the dismantle into 12 steps and calculated loads for every step, again working with Hoffman and Magnusson Klemencic Associates for review and modification,” says Jolicoeur. “Once approved, we developed step-by-step safety procedures so that Willis and the 21-person dismantle crew could prepare for literally every action.”

One of the larger challenges involved shifting the beam clamps to restore the area underneath. BrandSafway would loosen the clamp and slide it along the canoe beam. Ironworkers from Apex Steel would add welding reinforcement where the beam had been, and then painters would remediate any paint damage.

The final challenge involved removing the last sections of the starter platform. A four-person team from Global Rope Access in Squamish, British Columbia, transferred suspension points to the hoist and removed the final beam clamps. The event made the evening news.

“The bottom line for us is having a safe project,” said Vincent of Hoffman Construction. “BrandSafway had no injuries, no recordable incidents, and no dropped objects. That’s fabulous, and something BrandSafway and their crew should be very proud of.”

**About the Author**

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3D DESIGN CHALLENGES SUCCESSFULLY MET

The 2018 Scaffold & Access Industry Association (SAIA) Supported Project of the Year award was presented to D.H. Charles Engineering, Inc. for the Universal Volcano Bay project.

BY JOSH RUBERO, P.E.

Florida is a relatively flat state, and Universal Studios decided that their next water park was to have a 180-foot-tall volcano as its focus. With the waterslides snaking around, inside, and through the volcano, full access to the interior and exterior surfaces was needed to finish all surfaces.

D.H. Charles Engineering was contracted by Brace Integrated Services to provide a three-dimensional file, two-dimensional scaffold plans, and backup calculations outlining the adequacy of an access scaffold system to reach all interior and exterior volcano surfaces while re-setting posts several times around, and over, the extensive waterslide system. The three-dimensional computer-aided design (CAD) file was integrated into the...
general contractor’s building information modeling (BIM) program to review and update the scaffold system as necessary to ensure full access to all locations while considering all waterslide and different support conditions.

D.H. Charles Engineering started the design process in June of 2016, and the scaffold was dismantled in February of 2017. Although the design process started in June, the plans were not completed until the end of August.

During the design phase, the combination of the 3D structure and 3D scaffold on it proved excessive as every click on the computer took 15 to 20 seconds for the 3D image to regenerate. Given how extensive the scaffold
was, there were tens of thousands of clicks required to complete the program. The typical design takes one week, but for this project, three months were needed to complete the full scope of the design work.

The intent of the scaffold system was to provide access to all interior and exterior surfaces of the Volcano to allow for the shotcrete and paint to be applied. A BetaMax man lift was used inside the Volcano to provide efficient worker access to each of the deck levels.

During the scaffold installation modifications were needed to address new post conditions over each individual scaffold post’s height. Specific engineering was needed when an individual post was modified to reset more than two times over its height.

Due to the size of the scaffold, and how unrealistic it was to span the whole Volcano with scaffold, scaffold posts were installed through the Volcano skin, which simultaneously allowed close access below and above the skin while minimizing how excessive the scaffold could have been. Once the shotcrete had been installed on the Volcano, the scaffold was dismantled, and finish shotcrete was patched at the post locations to ensure a full, watertight skin.

About the Author
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LAISSEZ LES BON TEMPS ROULEZ!

GET READY FOR SOME GOOD TIMES AND GREAT EXPERIENCES AT THE SAIA’S ANNUAL FÊTE FOR THE SCAFFOLD AND ACCESS INDUSTRY.

BY DENICE H. POSEY
This year, the Scaffold & Access Industry Association (SAIA) heads south for its Annual Convention & Exposition, September 23-26, 2019, at the Sheraton New Orleans Hotel. A plentitude of Southern charm, Creole cuisine, sweet red Hurricanes, and vibrant jazz music awaits you in N’Awlins this fall. But that’s only the icing on the King Cake!

In addition to all the components of this premier industry event that attendees have grown accustomed to – world-class training, abundance of networking opportunities, peer-to-peer collaboration, dedicated Expo Hall hours – there is brand-new programming planned. For the first time, the SAIA will be offering a series of concurrent tracks that cover various technical, professional, and soft skills topics. Also new is our exclusive Customer Forum, where attendees can hear more in-depth information, ask questions, and see slide-show demos about exhibiting companies’ products and services.

Why Should I Attend?
The SAIA Annual Convention & Exposition brings together the largest gathering of scaffold and access professionals from around the world. The event provides attendees with the rare opportunity of face-to-face interaction with peers and SAIA leadership and staff. It’s your chance to:
• share opinions and expertise,
• discuss best practices,
• dialogue about industry issues that concern them, and
• get involved with the association.
Whether you’re a current SAIA member or an industry professional who may be interested in learning more about the association, you’ll both benefit from attending. During the four days, you can:
• gain valuable industry knowledge presented in the educational sessions,
• update Competent Person designations through the onsite training,
• discover the latest innovations from the nation's top scaffold and access exhibitors,
• build and strengthen important relationships over breakfast, lunch, or break, and
• celebrate the achievements of your fellow members at the President's Gala.

Visit with Industry Vendors
Exhibitors are industry experts, some of whom are seasoned SAIA members. The Exposition gives business owners, buyers, managers, safety professionals, and others in the scaffold and access industry a chance to meet with manufacturers and suppliers, experience products first-hand, and learn about affiliated services offered by the vendors.

With dedicated show hours, two exhibitor receptions and lunches, and the new customer forum, attendees can fully invest their time to develop key connections, find vital resources, and explore cutting-edge technologies essential to staying current in today’s competitive business environment. Representatives from all exhibiting companies will be happy to share their knowledge, answer your questions, offer insights to help your company drive change, and provide you with tools to increase your profitability.

Spotlight on Training and Education
One of the Annual Convention’s key components is training. Four courses from the SAIA University Training Program will be offered: Train the Trainer Facilitator Skills Workshop and Competent Person Training (CPT) for Frame, Suspended, and System Scaffolds. Train the Trainer is designed specifically for the scaffold industry and teaches the basic ideas about training and adult learning skills. The workshop lets students practice their presentation skills and try new techniques within the safe environment of a group setting.

CPT courses cover the basics of the three major supported scaffold systems, including safety aspects regarding scaffold foundations, scaffold components, regulations, guardrail requirements, fall protection, scaffold stabilization, and erecting and dismantling procedures for scaffolds that exceed the height-to-base ratio. CPT designations are good for a three-year period; if yours has expired, you can renew onsite by attending a course.

The convention presentations are some of the best in the business, given by individuals who are leaders and experts in their respective fields, whether it’s insurance- and finance-specific, Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) compliance-related, or scaffold and access industry-focused. Attendees will hear about emerging trends, updated practices and safety standards, and new marketplace introductions.

Don’t Miss These Presentations!
State of the Scaffolding Industry Update: Growing Divides and New Opportunities presented by Tim Oleszczuk, Managing Director, TKO Miller
This presentation will cover issues currently affecting the scaffolding industry overall, including the growing divide in performance between industrial and commercial scaffolding providers, the widening gap in size and market dominance between companies due to mergers and acquisitions (M&A), and the resulting opportunities for small- to mid-sized regional scaffold businesses.
OSHA Forecast for Construction and Manufacturing
*presented by Courtney Malveaux, Jackson Lewis P.C.*

What do OSHA, Congress, and regulators have in store for the construction and manufacturing industries? Find out in this interactive and entertaining discussion about the upcoming regulatory, legislative, and legal changes. Learn practical tips on adapting to these new developments, building and renewing relationships with regulators, and planning how you do business in the future.

Where Did All the Scaffold Go?
*presented by Chris Kelley, Bilt Rite Scaffold*

It’s an exciting time to be in the scaffold and access industry! A robust world economy is paving the way for innovation at an unprecedented rate. Adopting new, sustainable, and profitable practices is no longer a prerequisite for success – it’s a necessity to prevent failure. While technology and resources are rapidly changing, competitors are scrambling to adapt and remain relevant. This educational session delivers information on industry-wide improvements such as emerging automation, business intelligence (BI), and data mining that lead to greater efficiencies; cutting-edge solutions that augment user abilities; countless advancements in motors, engines, and hydraulics that reduce production times and costs; and white-hot mergers and acquisitions that affect companies across all levels.

Cannabis at Work

Get a general overview of the legalization of marijuana, what employers should know, and how to deal with it in the workplace. This presentation is sponsored by the SAIA Education Foundation.

Amazing Face Reading
*presented by Mac Fulfer*

Did you know that facial expressions can communicate more than just the meaning of a smile or frown? They also tell the story of a
person’s history, mental attitudes, character traits, intimacy requirements, work ethic, and much more. But, just like a road map, you must know how to read it to understand it. For a deeper understanding of yourself and others, you’ll want to attend this revealing presentation sponsored by A1 Manufacturing.

Visit the SAIA website to see the full schedule of events, including dates and times for all educational presentations, additional programming and training courses being offered, exhibit hall hours, networking receptions, and other activities.

**Take Advantage of Amenities and Social Functions**

The official event app allows attendees to take social connections and convention participation to the next level. The app supplies all the needed information – full schedules, exhibitor and sponsor information, and updates on schedule changes, special offers, and more. The app also allows users to connect with other attendees before, during, and after the meeting.

The SAIA Café, sponsored by Power Climber, is the central gathering place for convention attendees, who pass through all day, every day. The Café is open daily and provides a convenient spot to grab a cup of coffee, check email or work until the next event, have an informal meeting, and interact with colleagues.

Evening networking and social events cap off each day – they add the fun and camaraderie aspect to the convention. From the APEX mixer to exhibitor receptions, attendees will have time to mingle and relax after a long day of learning and collaborating. As in past years, the SAIA also will have activities planned for the guests of member and nonmember attendees, including their own breakfast times and special outings. The event concludes with a Farewell Breakfast on the final day, but it’s never really a goodbye because there’s always next year!

**Pack Your Bags… It’s Time to Go!**

If you haven’t registered yet for the SAIA 2019 Annual Convention & Exposition, it’s not too late. Go to www.saiainline.org/annualconvention and reserve your spot in New Orleans. There is plenty of business – and pleasure – waiting for you this year.

Be sure to pack some warm-weather clothes for days in the high 80s, comfy walking shoes for sauntering through the Quarter, and a light jacket or sweater for cold meeting rooms.

Join us in NOLA and let the good times roll!

**About the Author**

Denice H. Posey is the Marketing Manager for the SAIA. Contact her at denice@saiainline.org.
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"I have never, never had communication with the field like this before."

Michele Farinaccio, Eagle Scaffolding Services, Inc.

On May 31, the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) Board of Standards Review (BSR) announced its decision regarding two separate appeals to the new A92 standards for Mobile Elevating Work Platforms (MEWPs). The BSR granted in part each of the two appeals, both of which were related to the Commercial Terms Policy.

The standards are sponsored by the Accredited Standards Committee (ASC) A92 Aerial Platforms, for which the Scaffold & Access Industry Association (SAIA) serves as Secretariat. The appeals were filed by Tutus Solutions and the American Rental Association (ARA) and challenged the ANSI BSR’s decision to approve the A92 suite of standards as American National Standards (ANS).

Tutus appealed the sections that state that modifications or additions to a MEWP could be made only with prior written permission of the manufacturer. The ARA appeal concerned the requirement that a Manual of Responsibilities (MOR) available only through the SAIA be attached to each MEWP. The BSR agreed with Tutus and ARA that both requirements violate the ANSI Commercial Terms Policy.

The BSR granted the SAIA/ASC A92 30 days to submit a plan for revising the standards within six months to comply with the Commercial Terms Policy.

DeAnna Martin, ANSI liaison and SAIA executive director, said, “We will continue to work together as a committee to make sure our standards are compliant with the ANSI Essential Requirements.”
YOUR TRAINING STARTS WITH US

Learn from the leaders in safety education.

The SAIA is committed to delivering the highest quality safety training and education to the scaffold and access industry. We want to ensure that those who put their lives at risk every day come home safely at night to their families.

That’s why we created the SAIA University Training Program: to educate workers on the safe use of erecting and dismantling supported and suspended scaffolding equipment.

Why Us?
Expertise. Industry Standards. Convenience. Our courses
• are taught by certified instructors who receive the highest level of training possible from industry experts.
• meet training requirements for competent person designation.
• can be taken year-round at any of our 100+ Accredited Training Institutes worldwide or during annual SAIA events and industry trade shows.

Scan below to see a listing of current courses!

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Our training program wouldn’t be possible without the generous contributions from the SAIA Education Foundation (SAIAEF).

The SAIAEF funds program development of safety training and education in support of the SAIA mission.

They also provide resources that enhance the scaffold and access industry in general.

Become a Benefactor
Your donations will help establish scholarships and grants that are used to
• develop new or update existing training course study guides and handbooks
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As a benefactor, you’ll receive recognition in SAIA and SAIAEF publications, advertisements, and other related marketing materials.

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AVONTUS SOFTWARE EXPANDS INTO NEW UK OFFICE LOCATION

Avontus Software recently announced the April move of its U.K. operations into a new, larger space located at 31 High Street Back in Ely. The expansion supports Avontus’ strategic plan for talent development and business growth.

Ely is a prime location for expanding the company’s international operations. It offers convenient access to the most important cities around Europe, the Middle East, and South Africa, and enables Avontus to tap into the resources and talent at the nearby Cambridge University.

Over the last few years, the U.K. market has begun a transition from traditional tube-and-clamp scaffolding, and the system scaffolding market has begun to take off. This change has been accelerated by limited labor availability as well as evolving scaffold technologies, such as Avontus’ Scaffold Designer and Quantify solutions. Likewise, the move to system scaffold is increasing the adoption of Avontus’ Scaffold Designer and Scaffold Viewer.

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