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FAQs THAT KEEP WORKERS SAFE

By Cathee Johnson Phillips

Frequently asked questions (FAQs) are one of my favorite ways to learn more about a topic, product, or organization. They work best when they are based on actual questions asked by the inquiring public — especially when the responses are thoughtfully and clearly written. Even at their worst, FAQs can provide some basic information in a few minutes.

It seems to me that the Scaffold & Access Industry Association (SAIA) handles FAQs all the time. Many of the SAIA’s online resources, such as the Codes of Safe Practices and Recommended Procedures, are all about answering FAQs — including the FAQs that you don’t know to ask. At the 2019 Annual Convention & Exposition, the depth and breadth of industry expertise in the membership that makes this remarkable body of work possible was evident in all the sessions. David Glabe, P.E., wrote eloquently about the work of SAIA volunteers in Technically Speaking.

We left the convention with a delightfully long list of FAQs. We’re going to be requesting articles, or answers, from both presenters and attendees. But you don’t have to wait.

In this issue, there are several FAQs that are answered:

- How can a worker transfer safely out of a boom or scissor lift at elevation?
- How can you tell if a self-retracting device (SRD) is not compliant?
- How can American National Standard Institute (ANSI) standards carry the statutory authority of state and/or federal law?
- What does it take to safely demolish a revolving restaurant 42 floors up when it can’t be imploded?
- How do you safely minimize the number of setups when stringing a 400-foot guitar?

Yes, I know, the last two questions above aren’t really frequently asked. It could be, however, that the valuable lessons learned from these projects might one day become answers to FAQs.

Do you have a question that’s been nagging at you, one that you would like us to address in the magazine? Please let me know! Just email me at cathee@saiaonline.org. I’d love to hear from you!

Oh, and here’s one last question for you: What’s a four-letter word for energy source? If you know the answer (or even if you don’t) be sure to try your hand at the crossword puzzle provided by Harold Gidish for this issue. Enjoy!

FAQs work best when they are based on actual questions asked by the inquiring public — especially when the responses are thoughtfully and clearly written.

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A VALUE-ADDED MEETING

By James L. Holcomb

The Scaffold & Access Industry Association (SAIA) 2019 Annual Convention & Exposition was a great success, with a record attendance of 481. I believe that this meeting reflected the progress that our association is making in fulfilling the membership goals of its 2015-2024 Strategic Plan:

• Enhance SAIA’s image as a credible professional and legitimate organization.
• Be aware of the ever-changing member needs.
• Increase the value to event attendees, vendors, and sponsors.
• Increase member outreach and engagement.
• Increase volunteer participation and showcase activities and achievements.
• Grow membership.

The new Customer Forums and Professional, Soft Skills, and Technical Tracks were developed to help meet members’ changing needs. They were very well received. The general session presentations provided in-depth information and take-aways to inform company policies and decisions. Leadership meetings of the Board of Directors, the councils, and others gave rise to thoughtful discussion about the association’s impact on the industry. The APEX meeting had a great turnout, proving that this new council is fulfilling its purpose of engaging young and new members and providing a forum for emerging leaders of the SAIA. The Exposition provided plenty of opportunity for networking and learning about the latest product innovations. The Train the Trainer course was completed by five students, and the Competent Person Training was completed by 24 students – that’s 29 more trained workers in the field to help ensure safe practices are followed. And my personal favorite, the President’s Gala and Award Ceremony, certainly showcased the activities and achievements of our members.

The meeting was the perfect time to celebrate accomplishments and to talk about future endeavors. It set the stage for the work to be done in the coming months via email, phone, and upcoming meetings, including the 2020 Committee Week, to be held April 27-30 in Kansas City, Missouri. I’m already looking forward to that meeting, and I hope you will plan to join us.

Many thanks to everyone – members, friends, sponsors, vendors, and the SAIA staff – for delivering a very successful meeting. We’re halfway there, folks, and it’s thanks to all of you.

The meeting was the perfect time to celebrate accomplishments and to talk about future endeavors. It set the stage for the work to be done in the coming months.
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Edgage International
Falcons Scaffold Installation Ltd.
Formwork Exchange LTD.
Hydro Mobile
Jay Kinder
Layher Inc.
Marty Coughlin
Mast Climbing Platform Sales
MDM Scaffolding
Moody Family
Non-Stop Scaffolding
Regional Equipment Services
STVA Manufacturing & Sales
Savage Scaffolding & Equipment
Scaffold Industry Insurance Company
Scaffold Rental & Erection
Scaffold Resource LLC

Sue Votroubek
Superior Scaffolding - Phil.
Swing Scaffold Services
Van Thiel United
Zampell

Entry Level Benefactors
AA Ladder & Supply
Approved Ladder
Bob Backler
Brand Scaffold Builders
Caribbean Crane Inspections & Certifications
East Coast Rigging & Contracting Co. Inc.
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Mead Supply
Prime Scaffold Inc.
R & R Scaffolding Ltd.
Rached Karanouh
Safeworks LLC
Seacoast
Sky-Hi Swing Stage Rentals
Swing Lo. Company
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It has been said that you can only see one third of an iceberg; the other two-thirds lies below the surface. Since I have never seen an iceberg, I’ll assume that this is accurate. As for seeing an iceberg in New Orleans, I doubt that would happen, although with this climate change situation, you just never know. However, believe it or not, the iceberg one-third, two-thirds description can be used to describe the recent Scaffold & Access Industry Association (SAIA) convention in New Orleans.

The convention was attended by over 400 folks who enjoyed the hospitality of New Orleans and soaked in the local culture of the 301-year-old city. The exhibit hall was filled with 60 exhibitors who offered an array of products and services specific to the scaffold and access industry, resulting in a rewarding experience for everyone. The president’s reception and dinner, where association awards were given to deserving individuals in recognition of their service, brings us to the iceberg—again. Actually, it brings us to the tip of the iceberg previously mentioned since there is more to the awards than meets the eye.

While the convention demonstrated the vitality and progress the association has made over the years, what lies beneath is the backbone of the organization. Dedicated volunteers—that’s right, all those people who provide their time, knowledge, and expertise to the SAIA are not paid – make the SAIA what it is today. For example, the Board of Directors met prior to the main activities to discuss the budget and other important matters regarding the future of the association. The Outreach Training Committee also met to continue building on the success of the training program. I’m impressed with what has developed since the first training meeting in Albuquerque in the mid-nineties. The sessions that were presented in New Orleans were the result of council efforts to provide meaningful topics for the attendees’ enlightenment.

Are these efforts effective? Do they have any value or recognition? You bet your iceberg they do. For example, the Army Corps of Engineers, in their influential and mandated Safety and Health Requirements, found in the Engineer Manual (EM)-385 manual, specify that the SAIA/Scaffolding, Shoring and Forming Institute (SSFI)
Codes of Safe Practice be available on jobsites. In legal matters the SAIA codes are recognized as authoritative and reliable documents. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), and others, utilizes the wealth of information available from the SAIA.

Speaking of OSHA, the SAIA has an alliance with OSHA wherein the two organizations combine efforts to provide information and assistance to the industry. Kevin O’Shea, Hydro Mobile, Inc., was recently appointed to be the OSHA liaison for the alliance. He will be addressing issues that are important to the scaffold and access industry and help OSHA in their efforts.

The SAIA is the secretariat for the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) and manages the A92 suite of standards addressing mobile elevating work platforms. SAIA members are also involved with the ANSI scaffold standards. The A10.8 committee, which includes numerous SAIA members and is chaired by long-time SAIA member Dale Lindemer, develops consensus standards that are universally recognized by the industry, government and the public. While the main activities of the New Orleans convention concluded on Wednesday, a number of influential SAIA members participated in a SSFI committee meeting on Thursday to address issues that pertained to the manufacture of scaffold products. Following that meeting was a meeting of the ANSI committee that develops scaffold product testing procedures.

This description of just a few of the activities in New Orleans is by no means all inclusive. Many other discussions, meetings, and activities occurred that will influence the future of the association and the industry. As you can see, a lot was, and is, happening both above and below water. Finally, the most important chunk of the iceberg that may not have been seen by many attendees was the management of the convention. Without that support, none of the convention would have occurred—the iceberg would have melted!

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.

Suspended Scaffold
Free-hanging working platform. The high load capacity aluminium PSI-Beam enables surface scaffolding to be efficiently assembled - both suspended and upright.
One of the most asked questions we get is "How can a worker transfer safely out of a boom or scissor at elevation?"

First, if you’ve been trained this should have been covered in your mobile elevating work platform (MEWP) training.

Second, under the new American National Standards Institute (ANSI)/Scaffold & Access Industry Association (SAIA) A92 standards, supervisors need training now, and that supervisor training should cover this topic as well.

What does ANSI say about this? Nothing in the A92.5 Booms or A92.6 Scissor Standards, but it is addressed in the proposed A92.22 Safe Use Standard.
Exiting (or Entering) a MEWP at Height

MEWPs are not specifically designed to transfer personnel from one level to another or for leaving the work platform. Exiting (or entering) a MEWP at height shall only be permitted through a procedure provided by the manufacturer or qualified person that addresses the following:

a) fall prevention of persons during transfer from the work platform to the structure;

b) fall prevention of tools and materials during transfer from the work platform to the structure;

c) sudden movement of the MEWP or work platform;

d) additional loads or changing of loads imposed on the MEWP for which it was not designed which could affect stability or overload the machine;

e) dynamic and impact loads from personal fall protection equipment;

f) damage to the MEWP or structure by an unintentional movement of the MEWP;

g) stranding of people;

h) use of extending decks and gates;

i) use of single or double lanyards;

j) access and maintenance of required fall protection for persons while they are on the structure;

k) distance between transfer surfaces, both horizontally and vertically;

l) potential for movement of the MEWP platform due to changing loads; and

m) compliance with the local authority having jurisdiction.

Users shall direct, and operators and occupants shall comply with approved procedures for this operation.

Another source of guidance is from each manufacturer. JLG and Genie have guidance on their websites for transferring out of the platform at height. Look under manuals or safety topics.

However, in the opinion of this author an important element is missing.

Imagine this, you’ve called in your scissor lift off rent. You know it usually takes the rental company a couple of days to pick it up. You’ve got some last-minute cleanup to do on that roof, and you use the scissor lift to access the roof. No one is on the lift; you are on the roof. The rental company dispatches a truck to get the lift minutes after you called it off rent and after you’ve exited the lift to that roof. The driver gets to the jobsite sees the lift, goes to the ground controls and lowers it to the ground and loads it on his truck, leaving you stranded on the roof. This has happened. Putting a sign or notice of some sort at the ground controls with your cell number alerting ground personnel someone is working above would be prudent.

Another consideration is platform gate access. Most slab scissors have gates on the short end of the platform, and rough terrains have gates on the long side of the platform. Booms’ access gates vary, too. Can you maneuver the lift and platform to the elevated surface so that one can easily exit the platform without the risk of a fall?

Get proper training, follow the manufacturers guidance, and take precautions for every possibility.

About the Author
Jeff Stachowiak is Director of Safety Training at Sunbelt Rentals and Co-Chair of the SAIA Aerial Work Platforms (AWP) Council. Contact him at jstachowiak@sunbeltrentals.com.
When the City of Cape Canaveral, Florida, commissioned its first public mural to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Apollo 11 Moon Landing, Nicole Belmonte, Bee Access Products, was there to lend a helping hand.

South Florida muralist, “Anon,” needed a lift – literally – to work on his impressive 80-foot by 23-foot piece titled “One Giant Leap for Mankind.” Belmonte, who promotes the art community through her company Culture Climax Agency, turned to Sunbelt Rentals to provide a scissors lift.

Belmonte said, “Brad Kruger at Sunbelt and Steve Edwards, the local Sunbelt go-to person in Cape Canaveral, were so gracious in donating the use of the lift. I really appreciate their support of the art community.”

‘Jhonattan Arango, known as Anon, is a former medic in the U.S. Navy and developed a keen appreciation for the community during his time in the service. He now enjoys using his hands
and imagination to inspire others
to share in that appreciation. Since
earning his bachelor’s in fine arts for
graphic design from the Art Institute
of Jacksonville in 2011, Anon has made
a name for himself throughout south
Florida, signing his name to more than
15 murals and participating in seven
public art exhibitions.

The finished piece was dedicated
by the city in September and can
be viewed at the Nancy Hanson
Recreation Complex, 7300 N. Atlantic
Avenue, in Cape Canaveral.

Learn more about the Culture Climax
Agency at cultureclimax.com.

Editor’s Note: Does your company
give back to the community? We’d
like to feature philanthropic efforts by
Scaffold & Access Industry Association
(SAIA) members. Please send a short
description of the project to the editor
via email, cathee@saiaonline.org.
AWP/MEWP CROSSWORD
By Harold Gidish

ACROSS
1 Extended weight
4 Safety hook
5 So you don’t drop in
9 Friction protection
10 Gravity related safety concern
12 Safe working load
13 Energy source
14 Uneven warning
15 Look around before use
19 From a side load
23 Only purpose
24 In between barrier
25 Not level
26 Light and narrow
27 No fumes
28 Arrow decal

DOWN
2 Keep you inside
3 Non slab use
6 In case you get stuck
7 Type of manual
8 Fluid type
11 Shocking experience
16 Bypass
17 Before
18 Well spoken
20 Too heavy
21 Always close
22 Clean up fumes

WORD LIST
ANCHOR
ARTICULATED
ATRIUM_LIFT
DIRECTIONAL
ELECTRIC
ELECTRICUTION
EMERGENCY_DESCENT
ENTRY_GATE
FALL_HAZARD
FUEL
GUARD_RAILS
HYDRAULIC
INTENDED_USE
JOB_SITE_INSPECTION
LOAD_CAPACITY
LUBE
MIDRAIL
OPS
OVERLOAD
POTHOLE_PROTECTOR
PRE_USE
ROUGH_TERRAIN
SCRUBBER
SLOPED
TAIL_SWING
TILT_ALARM
TIP_OVER

Hint: Many of the answers have spaces in them, as indicated by the underscores in the Word List.

About the Author
Harold Gidish is a member of the Scaffold & Access Industry Association (SAIA) Board of Directors and Chair of the Suspended Scaffold Council. He is General Manager of Sky Climber Access Solutions, LLC in California. Contact him at hgidish@skyclimber.com.

View the answers on page 38.
LEADING EDGE SELF-RETRACTING LIFELINES (SRLs)

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

BY MIKE TAVIS

Self-retracting devices (SRD) should be compliant with the American National Standards Institute (ANSI)/American Society of Safety Professionals (ASSP) Z359.14-014 Safety Requirements For Self-Retracting Devices For Personal Fall Arrest And Rescue Systems.

How can you tell if a SRD is not compliant?

1. The device is not tested in an accredited International Organization for Standardization (ISO) 17025 Laboratory.
2. The manufacturer doesn’t provide a test report to back up their marketing and performance claims, or the test report they do provide is marked to the Z359.14-2012 standard, a now expired & defunct standard.
3. The SRD doesn’t have a permanent shock-pack integral to the unit or allows for an accessory shock-pack to be added after-the-fact to “transform” it into an leading edge device.
4. The line is made from webbing. This is highly suspect because the unrestrained swing required after the test-drop under 4.2.2 creates a sawing action that severs webbing. There are some webbing types that can pass a sharp-edge test but are yet untested against other serious risks like chamfered concrete edges.

ANSI Z359.14 Update

With the recent revision of the ANSI Z359.14-2012 now superseded by ANSI Z359.14-2014, many contractors have questions regarding compliant Leading Edge Self-Retracting Lifelines (SRL-LEs). Many jobsites now require equipment designated as Leading Edge compliant. As with any new standard, there exists a level of confusion until the market finds its footing and adopts the correct procedures with respect to both equipment and applications. Many contractors often struggle with why there exists so much confusion with respect to safety expectations and equipment in the first place. As one general contractor put it, “there seems to be a lot of gray area in the world of fall protection!”
The confusion is driven, in large part, by a lack of understanding of how precisely the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) and ANSI function and interact within the market. ANSI is a non-profit coordinating and approval agency for voluntary national consensus standards in the United States. OSHA, on the other hand, promulgates & enforces workplace safety and health standards as mandated by the Occupational Safety & Health Act of 1970 (OSH Act). In simple terms, OSHA is law. ANSI is recommended best practices by industry and safety experts.

**ANSI and OSHA**

ANSI is recognized by OSHA as a coordinating and approval agency for voluntary national consensus standards in the United States – it is on the front lines helping to drive workplace safety. ANSI provides assistance to OSHA’s standards advisory committees and in return, OSHA provides ANSI with notices of standards development activities relating to standards proposals, hearings, and final rules. The purpose of the cooperative effort is to leverage ANSI’s expertise in the service of OSHA as it executes its statutory responsibility. ANSI is vigilant about new technologies deployed into the field, works more closely with manufacturers, and helps drive safety compliance with both the industry and insurers. OSHA on the other hand, tends to move slower. Their legislative efforts strike the appropriate balance between worker safety and productivity.

**Leading Edge Examples**

To illustrate this dynamic, it’s useful to examine how OSHA defines “leading edge.” In Subpart R, Steel Erection, OSHA defines a leading edge as “the unprotected side and edge of a floor, roof, or formwork for a floor or other walking/working surface (such as deck) which changes location as additional floor, roof, decking or formwork sections are placed, formed or constructed.” On the other hand, ANSI tackles leading edge by authoring a detailed standard that prescribes everything from what is considered a leading edge to precise product performance characteristics and testing expectations of manufacturers who claim to meet the Z359.14-2014 standard. So, the next question that a contractor typically has is: “If OSHA is law and ANSI is only voluntary, do I really need to comply with ANSI?” The answer is both yes and no. It’s true that ANSI is voluntary; as such compliance is not compulsory. Having said that, there are several ways in which ANSI can carry the statutory authority of state and/or federal law.

**OSHA Adoption**

This can take place by discrete reference whereby OSHA refers to a specific ANSI code. Once this occurs, the ANSI code carries the force of federal law. The other method of adoption is when OSHA authors new workplace safety law using ANSI language. When this occurs, the ANSI code becomes part of OSHA law. The same process can apply to state plan states, and, as a result, ANSI code can become legally enforceable at the state level.

**Implicit Regulations**

ANSI code can be interpreted as an implicit regulation. This may occur directly as the result of litigation or indirectly as a consequence resulting from the ANSI committee publishing its safety standards. Because ANSI is considered an expert safety-and-industry-consensus-standard organization, its recommendations serve as “best-practices”; therefore failing to follow ANSI inherently creates employer liability. An employer can’t claim ignorance if ANSI code details specific mitigating measures an employer failed to meet. This is like the common-sense or reasonable-person standard. The very process of establishing market consensus, work fundamental to ANSI, creates regulation implicit to all stakeholders.

**General Duty Clause**

If an employer fails to address circumstances that would have likely prevented or reduced the severity of an injury to an employee, they’re failing to meet the General Duty Clause whereby an employer is required to provide a workplace free from recognized hazards – “recognized” is the key word. If it’s

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>A</th>
<th>Structural Steel I-Beams and Purlins</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>Steel Deck and Metal Roofing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>Poured Concrete and Concrete Block</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Examples not intended to depict the full extent of all hazardous sharp edges found on jobsites for the user to identify and avoid.
in ANSI, it’s recognized. In this scenario, OSHA will cite an employer for failing to comply with the General Duty Clause and may use ANSI as the basis for the citation.

So, while it’s true that ANSI is not compulsory, it’s also true that failing to observe ANSI may subject an employer to significant punitive federal and state legal action. At a minimum, ignoring ANSI increases the risk-profile and liability of an employer. And while the ANSI Leading Edge standard is the most stringent in the market, its requirements are captured within the larger Mechanical Device Standard of the ANSI Z359.14-2014. In other words, a mechanical device may be marked as compliant to the Z359.14-2014 yet still be noncompliant as a leading-edge device. That’s the reason it’s important to know the key sections of Z359.14-2014 before selecting a product promoted as Leading Edge compliant.

**Z359.14-2014 Key Sections**

**1.2.2 Purpose & Application**

“Before any equipment shall bear the marking of Z359.14 or be represented in any way as being in compliance with this standard, all applicable requirements of this standard shall be met including initial qualification and ongoing verification testing according to ANSI/ASSE Z359.7.”

The full Z359 standard must be met. Manufacturers can’t pick and choose which areas they’d like to comply with.

The Z359.7 requirements of a manufacturer must be met – in particular Section 8.3 of the Z359.7 test reporting.

The full test report (Declaration of Conformity) for all applicable products must be provided upon request. Products must be manufactured within an ISO 9001 accredited manufacturer and tested by an ISO 17025 Laboratory.

**3.3.5 SRL-LE Energy Absorber**

“The line constituent of SRL-LEs shall include an integral energy absorber element adjacent to the end of the line which connects to the body support… If the SRL-LE device housing is intended to be connected to the body support and can only be used in this orientation than an energy absorber is not required as part of the line constituent.”

This is the most easily identifiable marker of a leading-edge mechanical device like a 30-foot or 50-foot SRD. If this unit does not have an energy absorber (shockpack) “integral” to the line (meaning the unit may not be used without it), then it’s not a compliant device by default. Large SRD devices without a shockpack are not leading-edge devices.

**4.2.2 Dynamic Performance Testing of SRL-LE, Edge Test**

“…two drop tests are to be performed. One with the line perpendicular to the edge and a second with a lateral offset of 5 feet… Drop the test weight from a level 5 feet +/- 1.0 inch above and at a horizontal distance of 20” +/- 1.0 inch measured perpendicular from the edge…as needed to ensure the line element of the SRD makes the initial contact with the edge during the tests… Allow the test weight to swing unrestrained for a period of not less than 10 seconds following initial arrest… Before removing test weight, increase the static load as required by 3.1.9… and maintain the load for one minute…”

Both Dynamic Performance and Strength testing are required. The Performance test calls for a 282-pound test mass, while the strength test requires a 300-pound test mass. The Performance Test prescribes a 10-second post-drop unrestrained swing, while the strength test requires a full two-minute unrestrained swing. In the case of the Performance Test, it also requires an additional 675 pounds be added post-drop.

These tests are performed perpendicular to the edge and with a 5-foot lateral offset.

Three tests must be performed for each condition: ambient, hot, wet, and cold.

To qualify a SRD as Leading Edge compliant requires a significant investment by the manufacturer. Many units are typically destroyed during the certification process. If the manufacturer does not possess an ISO 17025 laboratory, they must pay a third party to certify their devices. In such cases, the certification lasts two years while an ISO manufacturer receives a five-year certification on their tested devices.

Ultimately, a product that may technically perform under OSHA’s jobsite definition of Leading Edge may not be the appropriate product to use on every leading-edge jobsite. A SRD that meets Leading Edge requirements as defined under ANSI Z359.14-2014 remains the gold-standard for leading edge equipment. In the end, it is the user’s responsibility to vet their equipment for their respective needs. Know the manufacturer, know the equipment, request the testing laboratory credentials or ISO Testing Scope, and demand a test report that validates performance claims for a product meant to save your or your worker’s life.

**About the Author**

Mike Tavis is Regional Sales Manager for FallTech. Contact him at mtavis@falltech.com or (480) 305-4349.
SAFE DEMOLITION
42 STORIES UP

THE 2019 SCAFFOLD & ACCESS INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION AERIAL WORK PLATFORMS/MOBILE ELEVATING WORK PLATFORMS PROJECT OF THE YEAR WAS AWARDED TO SKYLINE SCAFFOLD, LTD., FOR THE $1.8-MILLION EMPIRE LANDMARK HOTEL ROOFTOP REVOLVING RESTAURANT DECONSTRUCTION PLATFORM PROJECT.

BY JEFF REMFERT
The Empire Landmark was located on one of Vancouver’s busiest thoroughfares at 1400 Robson Street, in the West End of Downtown Vancouver. Completed in 1973, it stood 120 meters (393.7 feet) tall and had 42 stories. In Vancouver, the Empire Landmark was the tallest building that was completely devoted to use as a hotel. The building was also in the top-20 tallest buildings to be demolished in the world and was the tallest ever to be demolished in Canada.

Due to the design of the structure and its location in the city, the building could not be imploded, thus a floor-by-floor demolition procedure was required. The cantilevered, revolving restaurant on top of the building posed a unique challenge, in that it protruded from the building up to 14 feet and consisted of a sizable ring beam and supporting lateral concrete beams.

Skyline Scaffold, Ltd. provided scaffold access and a steel-work support deck with netting and other protection products for the dismantle of the restaurant. Supreme Steel worked with Skyline to design and fabricate all steel beams and components. The contract value of the project was $1.8 million.

**Scope of Work**

The project had several challenging components:

- The project required the floor by floor demolition of the building without the use of a crane.
- The design of the building required the...
revolving restaurant to be supported by a crash deck, both for advancement of the demolition and for safety.

- Environmental and safety concerns required a fully enclosed work area.
- Some areas of the cantilevered steel needed to be capable of supporting 180 pounds per square foot, 12 feet out from the building face.
- All of the steel and scaffold had to be brought up the outside of the building using mast climbers; so all components had to be installed by hand, in sequence, without exceeding the carrying capacity of the mast climbers.
- The capacity of the cantilevered platform required the installation of DYWIDAG-Systems International (DSI) rods, near the core, eight floors deep to resist the uplift.

**Innovative Methods**

Installation began in May 2018 and was completed by October 2018. Due to the short time frame for design, fabrication, and installation, using common Wide Flange sizes was a must. aDB Engineering—A Dingley Boettcher Company worked together with Jeff Remfert, Skyline Scaffold’s general manager, to realize his innovative concept. Skyline’s partners in steel, Canron, used three different facilities in the province to fabricate the steel on time and on budget. Layher brought in the right products from as far away as Houston, with time to spare and in a manner that it could be directly delivered to site.

As the demolition plan required the use of Brokk demolition robot units, the control of dust, water, and debris set the parameters of both the access scaffold and crash deck structures. There were three phases to the work: the mechanical room, the restaurant roof, and the restaurant floor.
The Mechanical Room
The demolition of the elevator mechanical room on top of the restaurant disc required straight-forward scaffold access and heavy debris netting.

The Roof of the Restaurant
This phase required a full re-shore deck with two different levels and an integrated kick-out for the full perimeter of the disc. The Skyline Scaffold team needed to install not only a completely sealed plywood vertical and horizontal protection outside of the disc but also a secondary debris netting wall to insure nothing could fall down, over, or through to the ground. The team utilized over 70,000 pounds of Layher all-round, aluminum beams, and shores.

The Floor of the Restaurant
Working with aDB Engineering and Supreme Steel, Skyline Scaffold developed a modular structural steel design that allowed the use of chain falls and other mechanical means to move over 150,000 pounds of steel beams from the east elevation through the building and out on the other three elevations in sequence. The largest beams were the corner beams, which measured 34 feet in length and W24x117 (117 pounds per linear foot and 24 inches deep) and were maneuvered into place on top of the face elevations.

Skyline then installed an aluminum beam and double three-quarter-inch plywood deck, complete with Layher all-round handrail and netting support system, and sheeted the inside of the handrail system with yet another wall of plywood. As a result, nothing, not even a nut or stone, made it to the ground during the installation of the access system, demolition of the building, or dismantle of the access system.

About the Author
Jeff Remfert is General Manager of Skyline Scaffold, Ltd. Contact him at jeff@skylinescaffold.ca.

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SCAFFOLD & ACCESS MAGAZINE 23
ON THE COVER

Photo by Drone Genius

Drone shoot produced by Nicole Belmonte, Bee Access Products. To see the video, scan the QR code or go to http://bit.ly/hardrockdrone.

Photo by Drone Genius
The Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood is owned by the Seminole Tribe of Florida and is located on 500 acres of the Hollywood Seminole Reservation. The resort recently underwent a $1.5 billion expansion project that included both remodeling and new construction. Scaff-Tech, Inc. provided access for the project, a joint venture between Suffolk and Yates Construction.

Liberty Equipment, owned by Suffolk Construction, assisted with the coordination and planning of all the scaffold install and removals. The architect for the project was Klai Juba Wald Architects and the Engineer of Record was Desimone Consulting Engineers. Arnold Rodriguez, Scaff-Tech’s onsite Project Manager, oversaw the daily activities of scaffold/swing stage access needs on the site. He said, “Edward and I grew up in the scaffold access industry and have made this our career for the past 30 years. We started in Houston, Texas, on scaffold projects for offshore drill platforms, large refinery, industrial, and power plants. These early years provided us with the expertise to create unique designs for...
just about any building configuration. The past five years we’ve been in the Miami, Florida, area building our reputation on our ability to handle complex, schedule-sensitive scaffold projects. We were excited to have been a part of this unique landmark project."

The Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood project began in May 2017 for the initial phase of the meeting and conference rooms, located at the farthest west side of the project. Once this phase was completed, other parts of the resort were demolished to accommodate other new venues to be added to the property, moving in an easterly direction.

These venues included, among others, the Hard Rock Live, the Oasis Tower at Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood, and the East Tower, more often referred to as the Guitar Hotel.

The construction and remodeling phases created many challenges as the project had to work around the casino areas that
remained open for patrons, such as gambling tables, slot machines, and high roller areas, along with the various bars and restaurants.

The First-Ever Guitar-Shaped Hotel

The work on the Guitar Hotel (East Tower) required access to the highest points of the guitar strings, made of a welded steel frame covered by aluminum cladding and strung from the bottom to the top of the hotel. Additionally, exterior lighting had to be installed for the hotel’s nightly light show that highlights the full guitar-shaped hotel structure. The lights change from varying colors, blue, pink, green to multi-colors, and figures dance across the glass of the north and south facades.

The installation of the aluminum metal cladding, glass, and lights required 100-percent access to the Guitar, which presented some unique challenges because of the angles and the curved face of the hotel. The Scaff-Tech team enlisted Bee Access Not affiliated with Bennu Innovations Inc. of Canada

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Products to design the suspended stage work for the installation.

Brian Andrews, engineering manager for Bee Access said, “We always try to minimize the number of setups for the user. In this case, the top of the guitar sloped inward. Therefore, we designed the system with taller scaffolding and larger outreaches so that the rigging equipment didn’t need to be torn down and set up at numerous levels.”

The design work was completed in about a month. Andrews said, “It was very easy working with Scaff-Tech and their customer. We had a face-to-face meeting to go over all of the requirements of the project first. Then we spoke directly with the customer to pass information back and forth and to come up with solutions for each location of the building. We strive to talk directly with our dealers and their customers; that really helps out and expedites everything. It could have taken months and months of going back and forth instead of one month.”

The scaffolding was erected utilizing Ringlock scaffolding starting at the roof elevation and continuing to five feet above the guitar strings. Once the scaffolding was erected, Bee Access’ beams and weight system were set on top of the Ringlock verticals so that suspended stages could access the entire height of the strings for the aluminum metal cladding installation. Bee Access Altrex modular suspended platforms were used
with Bisomac hoists to accommodate the 400-feet-plus building height. The north and south sides of the building each utilized 50 feet of suspended platforms. The high performance of the hoists provided continuous climbing of the entire height without overheating, allowing for work to continue efficiently.

During the construction of the Guitar strings, Hurricane Dorian, a Category 5 hurricane with sustained winds of 180 to 220 mph, was headed towards south Florida, which required the scaffolding and swing stages to be partially dismantled to secure the project as best as possible. Planking was removed, and swing stage platforms, wire ropes, and electrical power cords were placed in a secure area away from wind exposure to prevent them from becoming airborne. After four days of waiting for the threat to pass, the scaffolding was re-erected as quickly as possible to stay on schedule. Because there was only a half-day of work left, the team used rope access to finish the guitar strings work.

**Hard Rock Live Renovation**

The team faced a different sort of challenge during the Hard Rock Live renovation. The existing open areas of the Hard Rock Hotel & Casino required a design of scaffolding platforms above the gaming areas and walkways that allowed patrons to access slot machines with minimal interference. A design was presented to the Suffolk/Yates Team that would allow pathways to remain open and minimize the visibility of the construction work directly above the gaming areas. The plan was to erect small footprint towers, 15 inches by 15 inches, with Scaff-Tech’s Ringlock scaffolding connected with lattice trusses. This would allow the casino floor space to be maximized and also allow the necessary construction for the ceilings that were planned to update the existing gaming areas. The small scaffold towers were enclosed with drywall and painted. Lighting and carpet were added to create temporary gaming areas.

**Tower Construction**

While the towers in the casino required a small footprint, the addition of the Oasis Tower at Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood required large runs of scaffolding to allow all the various trades to
perform the work continuously and uninterrupted, in order to assist with the completion schedule. Netting was added to provide protection to the workers at ground elevation. The 600 feet of continuous scaffolding allowed the metal framing, the exterior insulation and finish system (EIFS), window installation, and paint work to all be performed in the shortest time frame. This part of the project consisted of hotel rooms overlooking the pools areas, with walkways leading to the rooms through the pool areas.

And that's not all...
Scaff-Tech also provided access for other construction areas, including the Hard Rock Live entertainment venue with a 7,000-person capacity, a “Bora Bora” style lagoon with private cabanas and butler service; a 42,000 square-foot Rock Spa; a 13.5 acre recreational water experience for swimming, kayaking, and paddle boarding; and more.

24/7 Workforce
The schedule in this multi-phase project was challenging because the hotel and gaming designs were still being developed as the work was continuing. Often, the access scope changed to accommodate the areas that were to be high-stakes patron use. In many cases the team worked with a changing schedule based around planned events that drew larger than normal crowds for certain weeks. To meet the demanding schedule, Scaff-Tech had a workforce of 20 to 25 employees working at the site daily and at times seven days a week around the clock.
The project was completed in advance of the Grand Opening on October 24, 2019.

Safety First

"Safety for our employees is always a concern and never compromised. The company’s motto is Safe Access…Anywhere, Anytime," Edward Rodriguez said, “Worker safety is of our highest concern. During the entire project we never experienced an employee injury.”

Edward Rodriguez gives credit to his workforce who have been in the industry for many years and share their knowledge with each other to have a safe and successful project. He said: “We have a stable work force that is very experienced and familiar with erection of scaffolding, swing stages, and shoring products. The equipment we utilize in our rental fleet, including Ringlock scaffolding and Bee Access products, allowed us to provide a full complement of access products for this ‘Once in a Lifetime’ project.”

About the Author

Edward Rodriquez is President and CEO of Scaff-Tech, Inc. Contact him at erodriguez@scafftechinc.com. Learn more about Scaff-Tech at https://scafftechinc.com/.

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MEETING THE CHALLENGES OF AN EVOLVING INDUSTRY

THE 2019 SCAFFOLD & ACCESS INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION (SAIA) ANNUAL CONVENTION & EXPOSITION FOCUSED ON THE EVOLUTION OF THE INDUSTRY AND THE IMPACT OF THE ECONOMY AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCES IN THE COMING YEARS.

BY CATHEE JOHNSON PHILLIPS
here is the scaffold and access industry headed? What new safety challenges are arising? How can the Scaffold & Access Industry Association (SAIA) meet these challenges? These questions and others were discussed by SAIA members and friends at the 2019 Scaffold & Access Association (SAIA) Annual Convention & Exposition held in New Orleans.

The opening session, “State of the Scaffold Industry: Growing Divides and New Opportunities” by Tim Oleszcuk, TKO Miller, LLC, provided a look at the history of commercial and industrial scaffolding and the current market landscape. He discussed the ways in which these companies are changing and, in some cases, expanding their products and services, often through mergers and acquisitions. He said, “Many ‘outsiders’ are bracing for a construction downturn and potentially an overall recession in 12 to 18 months, but those closest to the construction industry report a more positive near-term outlook.”

**Membership Meeting**

The Membership Meeting certainly reflected a positive outlook for the SAIA and included reports by members of the SAIA Executive Committee, committee chairs, and staff. SAIA President Jim Holcomb led the meeting. Treasurer Colby Hubler reported that the association is on track to end with a positive balance and will be able to invest more in some programs. SAIA Executive Director DeAnna Martin, who serves as the SAIA Liaison to the American National Standards Institute (ANSI), gave an update on the ANSI/SAIA Committees:

- The new chair of the Accredited Standards Developers (ASC) A92 Committee is Joshua Chard, Ph.D., with Global Rental Co., Inc., a subsidiary of Altec, Inc.
- The new chair of the ASC A11 Committee is John Albers with SafeWorks, LLC.
- The ASC A11 Committee also recently updated their policies and procedures.
- The ballot for the BSR/SAIA A92.20 and BSR/SAIA A92.22 closed, and public comment for the limited proposed changes opened on October 11.
SAIA Membership Manager Brandi Fox reported that the association gained 45 new members over the past year and now has 457 members. SAIA Associate Director and Training Liaison Jackie Brown reported on training numbers, with 513 students completing training at the end of August, which is ahead of last year.

Several projects are in progress, including the development of the Learning Management System (LMS) and new content for the fall protection training and the Competent Person Training (CPT) in Suspended Scaffolding.

Highlights of SAIA Committee reports include:

- **Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA): OSHA/SAIA**
  Liaison Kevin O’Shea, Hydro Mobile, Inc., reported that the SAIA would like to move to the second phase of the Alliance Program and that he is investigating more ways to incorporate ANSI standards into OSHA regulations. He also noted that Scott Ketcham was recently appointed as the new director of the OSHA Directorate of Construction (DOC) in Washington, D.C.

- **Outreach Training Committee:** Chair Shawn McDonald, Superior Scaffold Services, Inc., said that the first draft of the CPT in Suspended Scaffold had been reviewed and is back with the developer. The main purpose of this committee is to make sure that the training is teachable in the early stages of its development. The committee is also working on a new Fundamentals course and receiving input on that from all of their Accredited Training Institutes (ATIs).

- **Program Planning Committee:** Chair Ali Hajighafouri, Avonitus Software, reported that the committee helped to plan this year’s convention agenda and that the committee’s goals are to ensure that the convention showcases the best talent in the industry and engages all sectors in the industry.

- **Regulatory and Review Committee:** Chair Stephen Smith, Edge Scaffolding, reported that the updates to the CPT in Supported Scaffold have been completed and that the training is up and running. The committee is currently reviewing documents for the Shoring Council, among other projects.

- **Scaffolding, Shoring and Forming Institute (SSFI) Committee:** Chair Frank Frietsch, Layher, Inc., reported that the committee is beginning work again, now that the SSFI has been brought under SAIA’s umbrella.

**The Sessions, Version 2.0**

Educating a constantly evolving industry about safe practices requires new methods of delivering that education. This year, the SAIA introduced new educational tracks, including Professional Soft Skills, and Technical Tracks, as well as customer forums presented by Avonitus Software Corp., CrewTracks, and SafeSmart Access.

**Educational Tracks**


**Presentations**

Four of the presentations focused on changing trends and potential future developments, including the opening session; “OSHAs Forecast for Construction and Manufacturing” by Courtney Malveaux, Jackson Lewis PC; “Tackling Craft Labor Shortages by Enabling New Talent” by Carlos Cano, BrandSafway; and “Where Did All the Scaffold Go?” by Chris Kelley, Bilt Rite Scaffold. Six presentations featured the SAIA 2018 Project Award Winners.

**Q&A**

“3 Engineers Walk Into a Bar” featured 60 minutes of questions from the audience to three brave engineers: Tracy Dutting-Kane, P.E., StepUp Scaffold; Dave Glabe, P.E., Glabe Consulting Services, Inc.; and Dale Lindemar, P.E., BrandSafway. Stephen Smith, Edge Scaffolding, served as the moderator and bartender, serving up shots of a mysterious whiskey-like beverage to the panelists in between questions. Questions ranged from “What does it take to become a professional engineer?” and “What should the safety factors be for new items being introduced into the market?” to “What is the current status for fall protection when erecting falsework?” and “Why are engineers so picky?”

Many questions engaged both humorous and serious responses, for example, the question “Would you give us a prediction about what is going to be the biggest challenges for our industry in 20 years?” Lindemar immediately said, “First, Dave and I aren’t going to be there.” When the
laughter died down, he noted that finding skilled labor would continue to be a challenge. Dutting-Kane said, “Safety will still be the biggest challenge.” Glabe agreed with her and noted that regulations and litigations would then also continue to be a challenge. He said: “It’s unfortunate that we measure safety by regulations; that’s not necessarily the way it should be done.”

All in all, the panel handled their “liquor” – and the questions – in a very effective, responsible, and entertaining manner.

President’s Gala and Awards Presentation
Attendees also enjoyed the President’s Gala and Awards Presentation and After Party, sponsored by STVA Manufacturing & Sales. The Gala provided a New Orleans-style opportunity for attendees to celebrate members for their outstanding achievements and contributions to SAIA and the industry.

Membership and Training Awards
The William T. Ayres Founders Award, given to an SAIA member who has excelled in the recruitment of new members, was presented to Cameron Boots, Allied Insurance Brokers.

The Accredited Training Institute (ATI) of the Year Award recognizes the ATI that has education the most students over the course of a year. The recipient for 2019, who trained more than 432 students, is David Johnson of Skyline Scaffold, Inc.

SAIA Association Awards
The SAIA Association Awards recognize members who have contributed their time, devotion, passion, and expertise to the overall growth, mission, and initiatives of the SAIA. They are nominated by their fellow members and voted on by the entire membership.

The Victor Saleeby Award was bestowed on Colby Hubler, Power Climber Wind, for his outstanding and exceptional service to the association. He also received the Hall of Fame Award, given to a member who has actively served the association for five years and is a past recipient of the Coupling Pin Award. In honor of other outstanding performances this year, the following members were also recognized with association awards:
- Spirit Award, Unsung Hero Award, and Coupling Pin Award - Matt Morgan, Mdm Scaffolding Services, Inc.
- Outstanding Service Award - Tracy Dutting-Kane, StepUp Scaffold
- Outstanding Council Chairperson Award - Mike McAnnally, StepUp Scaffold
- Outstanding Company Contribution Award - Action Equipment & Scaffolding Co., Inc.

SAIA Project Awards
The SAIA Project Awards recognize member companies that have gone above and beyond in contributing to the overall success of a project. The SAIA bestowed six Project Awards recognizing endeavors that ranged from providing access for restoration of a historic building to providing access for a multi-phase resort project that required 2.5 million pounds of scaffolding.

SAIA Education Foundation Awards
SAIAEF President Amy Johnson announced that since the Foundation was established in 1989, more than $535,000 has been raised for programs that advance the mission of the SAIA. Benefactors for 2018-2019 include: Zampell Refractories, Inc., the Bronze Award, and CLAC Training Alberta, the Diamond Award.

Moving Forward
The meetings, sessions, and networking celebrated the work of SAIA volunteers over the past year and provided inspiration for the work that will be accomplished in the coming year. SAIA members and friends can provide input by contacting the SAIA leadership or staff at any time. A great way to get involved is to attend the SAIA 2020 Committee Week, to be held April 27-30 in Kansas City, Missouri. Visit www.saiaonline.org to learn more. The SAIA welcomes new volunteers.
Stop Chasing Paperwork

"I have never, never had communication with the field like this before."

Michele Farinaccio, Eagle Scaffolding Services, Inc.

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BRANDSAFWAY WINS ACCESS PROJECT OF THE YEAR

BrandSafway was awarded the 2019 Access Project of the Year – Mast Climbing Work Platforms, Transport Platforms and Hoists at the Access, Lift & Handlers (ALH) Conference in San Diego, California, held in September. The company won for its unique work platform and weather barrier solution for the recent $100-million renovation of Seattle’s iconic Space Needle.

Featured as the cover story in the August 2019 issue of Scaffold & Access Magazine, the project included a 106-foot-diameter starter platform using the QuikDeck® Suspended Access System, which was then hoisted into place at 500 feet with 12 two-part Tractel hoists, each with an 8,800-pound capacity. Once secured, the platform was then built out to its full size of 135 feet in diameter at a weight of 174,000 pounds. BrandSafway then erected an all-season weather barrier, using Systems Scaffold and HAKI, which could withstand a 115-mph wind load.

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REACHMASTER, INC. RECEIVES 2019 DEALER OF THE YEAR AWARD

ReachMaster, Inc. received the global 2019 Dealer of the Year award during the opening ceremony of the new Bluelift factory in Italy in September, in appreciation for its sale of the Bluelift product line from Ruthmann Italia in North America.

ReachMaster, Inc. has been the exclusive distributor of Bluelift’s compact track-based lifts in North America since 2010, marketing and selling its extensive portfolio of lift models from 39 to 101 feet, and in particular pioneering the dual power concept for this category.

For more information, contact Mr. Ebbe Christensen, president at ehc@reachmaster.com.
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Sky Pro Automated Window & Façade Cleaning Technology is a breakthrough in window and facade cleaning equipment. A two-person operation can safely, quickly and profitably clean not only windows but also a building’s exterior surface. It is much safer and easier to use than manual window cleaning equipment.

The “green clean,” environmentally safe technology behind the Sky Pro Systems is very similar to carwash technology. Primarily the machines are used with pure water. The water runs through a reverse osmosis deionization (RO/DI) water filtration system that removes minerals and other matter, resulting in spot-free windows without the need to manually dry the windows.

Sky Pro offers four models including the Sky Pro Mini and the Sky Pro Brush Machine, which clean using soft touch foam brush carwash technology, and the Sky Pro Mini Sprayer and Sky-drowasher, which clean using technology similar to a touchless carwash.

For more information, visit www.skypro.com or contact Kari Francois at kfrancois@skypro.com.

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The rewards of giving back

One of them is HG: In the seventies, as I immigrated to the US, I did my best to help people.

Harold Gidish: South Africa in 1975, doing the same business that people were doing, I came to the US and I was alone in a country, and I was very excited about it.

HG: I think that one of the biggest changes is that we really have changed the way people think about safety.

Harold! I had a lot of time and access industry and SAIA (2002-2004), and Vice President of the Suspended Scaffold. In his career, he authored the Suspended Scaffold. In his career, he helped produce the suspended scaffold, and was a contributor to the development of the new Code of Safe Practices (COSP).

When I was a young man, I was a very successful in teaching and getting people to focus on their safety.

Harold Gidish: South Africa in 1975, doing the same business that people were doing, that we really have become more aware of the hazards and given training, education, and we have established industry-wide safety programs with the world to establish their projects.

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Harold Gidish: South Africa in 1975, doing the same business that people were doing, that we really have become more aware of the hazards and given training, education, and we have established industry-wide safety programs with the world to establish their projects.
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