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HOPEFULLY
By Cathee Johnson Phillips

This year has been a “first time since” kind of year. For some, it might be the first time they have gone to a movie or visited extended family members since the spring of 2020. For those in the scaffold and access industry, it might be the first time attending an in-person training or taking a client to lunch.

For many members of the Scaffold & Access Industry Association (SAIA), the 2021 Committee Week may have been the first time they attended a meeting in person since the pandemic hit. (If you missed the digital recap of the Committee Week council meetings, be sure to read the article on page 28.) For others, the SAIA 2021 Convention & Exposition will be their “first time since” meeting (read the preview on page 24).

Hopefully, this will be the last time yours truly will feel the need to give an issue context with an update on the coronavirus update. Hopefully.

At press time, according to the BBC, there had been more than 138 million cases worldwide, with a staggering 3.8 million deaths. The good news was that, according to ourworldindata.org, more than 22% of the world’s population had received at least one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine and 2.8 billion doses had been administered globally. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) data tracker reported that there had been more than 33 million cases in the U.S. with more than 600,000 deaths. The good news was that some 66% of adults in the U.S. had received at least the first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine. World leaders continued to express their concern about new variants of the coronavirus and possible outbreaks, and some countries remained on lockdown with closed borders.

In spite of the difficulties in navigating the transition from a pandemic to a post-pandemic work environment, it’s likely that most people are happy to be able to say that’s “the first time since.” But some things, like keeping hand sanitizer at the ready, are good habits to continue. Here’s to moving forward cautiously. Stay safe!

P.S. Many thanks to those who contributed to this issue, including Michael J. Purkey of Infinity Scaffold, Inc., the chairs and co-chairs of the Aerial Work Platform/Mobile Elevating Work Platform (AWP/MEWP) and Fall Protection Equipment Councils, and David H. Glabe, P.E., author of the Technically Speaking column.

In spite of the difficulties in navigating the transition from a pandemic to a post-pandemic work environment, it’s likely that most people are happy to be able to say that’s “the first time since.” Here’s to moving forward cautiously.
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PROMOTING SAFETY IN PERSON

By Michael Paladino

Post-pandemic life is slowly returning to normal! The Scaffold & Access Industry Association (SAIA) staff members who attended the World of Concrete (WOC) in June reported that it was a successful event and that they really enjoyed seeing so many SAIA members there. The SAIA will be returning to WOC in January 2022 and offering training during the event.

The next opportunity for us all to come together is the 2021 SAIA Annual Convention & Exposition, August 29-September 2 at the Hilton Cleveland Downtown. Please consider this your personal invitation to join us for an informative and future-building week. The week will include educational sessions, networking receptions, social events, exhibits – and some new training opportunities.

In addition to the Train the Trainer Facilitator Skills Workshop and Competent Person Training (CPT) for Frame, Suspended, and System Scaffold, the SAIA is offering MEWP training at the convention. As part of the recently established SAIA/International Powered Access Federation (IPAF) Alliance, the SAIA is now an IPAF-approved training center, which will allow its Accredited Training Institutes (ATIs) to become qualified evaluators and offer the MEWP operator training program. The SAIA is offering a two-day mobile elevating work platform (MEWP) evaluator course to Accredited Training Institutes (ATI) on August 29-30 and hands-on MEWP operator training on August 30 to candidates who have successfully completed the IPAF MEWP eLearning theory course. Register now to secure a seat at these limited-size training courses.

Indeed, the SAIA/IPAF Alliance is going well. We have already added four new trainers who will be teaching that program for us, with a few more slated to sign up.

Just one month after the convention, the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) Accredited Standards Committee (ASC) A92 Main Committee Meeting will take place on October 5 at Planet Hollywood Resort and Casino in Las Vegas. This meeting is open to anyone who has interest in the standards that establish consensus rules, guidelines, or characteristics for activities or their results in the aerial platforms industry.

I am looking forward to coming together in person this year! We will renew connections, strengthen friendships, and address new and ongoing safety challenges in the scaffold and access industry. Together, we can more effectively promote safe practices, reduce injuries, and save lives.

Sincerely,
Michael Paladino

As part of the recently established SAIA/IPAF Alliance, the SAIA has become an IPAF-approved training center, which will allow its Accredited Training Institutes (ATIs) to become qualified evaluators and offer the MEWP operator training program.

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Learn about SAIAU: [saiaonline.org/benefitsoftraining](http://saiaonline.org/benefitsoftraining)
Fall protection in the 1970s, as the photo shows, wasn’t all that effective. Note the hand grip that served to save the worker from falling 70 feet. Unfortunately, fall protection still isn’t all that it publicized to be. While I don’t mean to be disrespectful to the men and women who tirelessly promote fall protection, the bureaucracy is challenging their efforts. This issue of fall protection can be quite confusing, especially for poorly trained employees who are exposed to the risk of falling from heights. Adding to the confusion are the myths, misperceptions, incorrect training, and various other obstructions to safe work practices.

Hierarchy of Controls
There is little doubt that falling from heights without a reasonable means to slow you down before you hit the level below is not a healthy undertaking. To help in understanding the situation, the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), has a tool that can help. NIOSH describes a generally accepted approach to resolving safety issues such as the hazard of falls from heights. Called the Hierarchy of Controls, it has five steps that can be employed to eliminate or minimize fall hazards. The first step is elimination, the second is substitution, the third is engineering controls, the fourth is administrative controls, and the last step is personal protective equipment (PPE).

Since many work activities, such as replacing a light fixture on the ceiling, occur at heights, and it is impossible to eliminate the activity, NIOSH’s first step of elimination can, well, be eliminated. That brings us to the second step, substitution. If the falls from height hazard has not been designed out in the first place, this is not an option for the typical construction and general industries’ worker. Therefore, substitution gets eliminated. The third step is engineering controls, and this is where it starts to get interesting. One good example of an engineering control is a guardrail system. Once the guardrails are installed, the worker has to do nothing other than behave. A guardrail system is a passive system, that is, the worker doesn’t have to do anything to use it. And that is a good thing. Unfortunately, a good thing can be abused, which then makes it a bad thing. That’s when the fourth step kicks in. Administrative controls includes training. For example, the trainer may train the employee not to stand on the top of the guardrail, a practice not all that uncommon in scissors lifts and boom lifts. That brings us to the fifth step which is PPE, including harnesses, lanyards, and the other gear that is necessary for fall protection.

Recapping, since the fall hazard can’t be eliminated, guardrails are installed. When that doesn’t work, companies give the employees PPE and training, and most importantly, tell them not to fall. Based on statistics, it appears that some employees don’t listen to the training and advice and fall anyway. Interestingly, I don’t know of anyone who went to work anticipating that they would fall, although I know of two guys who jumped to see what it was like—but that’s a different issue.

Rules and Regulations
To make all this fall protection stuff work, there are rules, and lots of them. So many, in fact, that a lot of them are ignored, manipulated, or forgotten. Did you know that guardrails are required when the fall height is 4 feet, 5 feet, 6 feet, 7.5 feet or 10 feet depending on the

NIOSH describes a generally accepted approach, the Hierarchy of Controls, to resolving safety issues such as the hazard of falls from heights. The hierarchy has five steps that can be employed to eliminate or minimize fall hazards.
applicable regulations? How can that be? Do people bounce at different rates? Guardrail height varies, too, from 36 inches to 48 inches depending on the circumstances. Luckily, there is one thing everyone seems to agree on – the force a guardrail must resist. Sadly, everyone cannot agree on whether it is down and out or down and any horizontal direction. Fortunately, it appears that the guardrail does not have to resist upward force, apparently based on the concept that you never fall up. Interestingly, many guardrail systems are constructed of wood and nails. Based on what I know, very few are strong enough to hold the required 200 pounds, but they look good.

Personal fall protection equipment, (PFPE), is required in many instances. For example, it is required in a boom lift, although, in reality, it’s to be used as restraint, not arrest – but who knows that? Certainly not the majority of boom lift operators I ask. What about PFPE in scissors lifts, which only go up and down and don’t have the tendency to throw you out like a boom lift does? There is a guardrail system, but manufacturers insist on PFPE. Not sure about the redundancy, unless you are the one standing on the guardrail.

The U.S. federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) specifies fall protection system requirements. These requirements specify that an undesigned anchor is to support 5,000 pounds, that the maximum freefall distance is 6 feet, that the maximum deceleration distance is 3.5 feet, that you are not to hit the level below, and that the maximum allowable force on your body is 1,800 pounds. Hooking your lanyard to just about any part of a scaffold will not a 5,000-pound anchor make. Connecting your 6-foot lanyard at your feet will not limit your freefall to 6 feet.

Be safe, don’t fall.

Based on my experience, everybody blows off the regulations, are genuinely pleased they are “tied off,” and are delighted to conclude that the fall protection works. But does it? Who knows because so few workers fall; nobody tests the equipment by jumping except for those two guys I told you about earlier.

So, here is what it is. Workers tie off to whatever is handy, don’t fall, please their bosses and roaming safety inspectors, pass the occasional OSHA scrutiny, and everyone declares success. No one runs into a guardrail with a force of 200 pounds, and so no one knows if the guardrail works. That is the reality of fall protection.

Perhaps we should put this in perspective. According to OSHA, in 2018 (the most recent year with data) there were 32,023 OSHA inspections. In that same year, there were 320 fatal falls out of 1008 total fatalities. While this is significant, particularly if you are one of the 320, keep in mind that there were 128,570,000 employed workers in 2018. For the same year, there were 36,560 vehicular deaths and 365,744 deaths from heart attacks. And, by the way, as for the guy in the photo, he did not fall, and as far as I know he is still alive. Be safe, don’t fall.

About the Author

David H. Glabe, P.E., is President of Glabe Consulting Services Inc. and Founder of DH Glabe and Associates. Contact him at dhg@glabeconsulting.com.
RE-VIEWING HISTORY

THE SAFE RESTORATION OF A BUILDING FAÇADE PROVIDES A GLIMPSE BACK INTO THE PAST.

BY MICHAEL J. PURKEY
If you have ever visited the capital city of Minnesota, you have undoubtedly been surprised by the ornate history that the city has on display. You can tour the James J. Hill mansion built in 1891, or step back even further to the settler home of Justus Ramsey from 1855. Take a stroll downtown to the corner of 7th Place and Jackson Street, and you will see a glass building that appears to be just another part of the modern history. What you may not realize is that you are looking at a much older structure than first meets the eye.

Step back in time when brick streets and cable cars ruled the land. Stand on that same corner. You would be blessed to see a beautifully ornate white brick and terra cotta building; the craftsmanship of hand chiseled cornices was something to marvel. The street awnings and classic vertical signage on each side simply reads “Emporium,” in an attempt to draw shoppers. Once the cornerstone of the shopping district in downtown St. Paul, this historic building was known as “The Fresh Air Store” for the sheer number of windows it housed. Unfortunately, the hustle and bustle of this shopping empire could not hold up to the times. In the 1960s due to the growing popularity of downtown office space, the Emporium was sold, rebranded as Metro Square, and remodeled. Decades later, still keeping to the original “fresh air” namesake, Metro Square had a curtainwall anchored to its historic brick, and its history was entombed in glass.

Fast forward to today and Metro Square is a Ramsey County government office building. The glass façade remains, and the inside walls and halls are covered in today’s standard sheetrock and offer glass-office appeal. Underneath the glass façade, the original brick and terra-cotta building remains, but the Emporium building is beginning to show signs of its age. Minnesota lays claim to some of the harshest winters, and a minus-30-degree wind chill was not what the “Fresh Air” storefront initially
intended. There were also growing safety concerns as the terra cotta deterioration was causing some falling debris behind that glass. The pandemic-stricken closed offices meant that it was time to open the modern façade and give Metro Square a much-needed face lift.

The project went for bid in December and was awarded to Sheehy Construction Company as a two-phase, $5.5 million maintenance project. During the bidding process, Sheehy turned to Infinity Scaffold, Inc., located in St. Paul, to answer the question asked on every construction project: What is the safest way to accomplish our work? Before that question could be answered, the Infinity Scaffold team needed to understand the entirety of the project scope.

First things first, all glass and mullions needed to be removed, labeled, and stored for replacement. Each pane weighs in at over 100 pounds, and although they appear the same size, there are actually dozens of shapes and sizes throughout. Next, the brick would be inspected and repaired to accept the sealing air barrier before approximately three inches of mineral wool insulation would be added. Finally, each pane would be lifted back into place and reinstalled in its previous location. With that, history would once again be covered, albeit as a much more efficient building.

Given that the project required multi-trade access and the magnitude of glass to be removed and then replaced, the Infinity team needed to think outside everyday scaffold techniques. Swing stage equipment could be used at building entries, where access was otherwise restricted, but would only have capacity for a few glass panels. It was clear that this wasn’t an efficient solution. For Sheehy’s project, the Infinity team decided on the Tractel Scanclimber 8000, which can travel over 20 feet per minute and handle over 8,000 pounds each.

While the mast climbers are capable of free-standing up to 62 feet in height, the weight-capacity and 50-foot stretched deck required tie-in anchors. The beautiful white brick and terra cotta were unable to handle the required loads of these anchorages, and a structural deck needed to be located. After removing glass near their assumed tie-in, workers then removed bricks and blindly felt for the structural deck, adjusting up or down as necessary. Once identified, the workers could remove the appropriate bricks and tie into the building’s structural deck.

With the mast anchors in place, it was time to remove the glass. Sheehy called in local experts W.L. Hall for the glass removal, and with the mast climber’s speed and capacity they were able to make quick work of an otherwise tedious process. Multiple personnel were able to work and stack up to 30 lites of glass along each 50-foot elevation. This effectively reduced labor, and more importantly time, by over half, compared with using traditional techniques. The glass was removed, and for the first time in decades the original Emporium building was once again on display. Sheehy will continue their work around Metro Square exterior into the 2022 calendar year. Until then, St. Paul residents will be able to look up and step back into history.

About the Author

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GATES WITH TOE BOARDS

THE INDUSTRY DECISION TO ENHANCE THE OPENINGS IN GUARDRAILS FOR ENTRANCE AND EXIT IS EXPLAINED IN THIS ARTICLE.

BY FORREST HESTER
There is no argument to the fact that work must be performed at height. Some people think of aerial lifts as being a sophisticated piece of equipment exclusive to the construction industry. This could not be farther from the truth. Trade workers, photographers, small business owners, filmmakers, and others utilize mobile elevating work platforms (MEWPs) to enhance their business.

So, what brought about the need for the access industry to re-evaluate the traditional chain so common on 3a or 3a+ vertical scissor lifts? Injury of course! Falls are and have been for nearly a decade the number one cause of injury and death, not just in America but across the global construction industry. Scissor lifts do not have the same requirements for fall protection that 3b or 3b+ articulating/straight booms have. The reasons for that distinction in fall protection requirements comes down to a deeper understanding of the hazards associated to both classes of equipment. Some MEWPs require personal fall protection equipment, and some do not. The access industry has realized that the weakest link in their chain of safety was the chain at the entry gate!

Two Groups of Fall Protection
Understanding the terminology is important when making decisions about a rental or purchase. There are two groups of fall protection, active and passive.

- Active fall protection = Dynamic systems that contain moving parts.
  - Restraint – Prevented from reaching an area of risk, restrained from the edge.
  - Positioning – Positioned securely through tension or suspension in an area of risk.
  - Arrest – Prepared by utilization of fall protection systems (FPS) that only limit the impact force in an area of risk.

- Passive fall protection = Non-dynamic systems that are stationary.
  - Stair rails and guardrails – Prevent a fall through permanent installation.
  - Barricades and scaffolding – Positioned temporary systems.
  - Safety netting – Prepared to absorb and contain.
Based on this terminology, the entry gate is a form of passive fall protection that allows prevention of falls like a restraint system with active fall protection methods. Not many people looked at passive protection in this light. However, it was this innate understanding that led to the change.

In early 2000, members of the European Committee for Standardization (CEN) EN280 Committee desired to increase the safe use of elevated work platforms. In 2009, CEN published new rule making for MEWPs, including design calculations, stability criteria, construction, safety, examinations, and tests (citation: prEN 280:2009 (E), CEN/TC 98 2009-02). That is when the first change came about. The rule was clear: “Chains or ropes shall not be used as guard-rails or access gates. Verification – by visual examination.”

The American National Standards Institute (ANSI) was soon to follow. Work began and discussion led to the creation of 10 sections within a new suite of standards specific to the same issue. Employers and users of aerial equipment designed to comply to ANSI/Scaffold & Access Industry Association (SAIA) A92.20-2020, however, are not required to retroactively make changes to equipment manufactured before June 1, 2020, the effective date of the standard.

What You Need to Know!
- No more chains and rope.
- Access entry points must have a toe-board.
- Swing gates will be much more common.

What Does the ANSI/SAIA A92.20 Standard Say?
4.6.6.1 Any opening in the floor or between the floor and toe guards or access gates shall be dimensioned to prevent the passage of a sphere of 15 mm (.59 in) diameter.

4.6.7 Chains or ropes shall not be used as guardrails or access gates.
A popular solution for manufacturers has been a fixed bar across the top of the aft end of the rails with a half gate that opens on the bottom. This solution can be seen on scissor lifts with folding rails.

So be on the lookout going forward. Day-by-day, saloon-style gates and cantilevers entries will be much more prevalent than chains. Being informed is key. Understanding that the new standards are not retroactive will give insight into how to handle a machine that arrives on your jobsite. The aftermarket industry is full of resources by the original equipment manufacturing (OEM) community to provide ways to use older machines safely.

To learn more, be sure to purchase and review the most recent ANSI/SAIA standards and to have on hand the SAIA Manual of Responsibilities. Give your partner in safety a call and join the SAIA at its 2021 Annual Convention & Exposition to be introduced to a room full of passionate SAIA members.

**About the Author**
Forrest Hester is Company Director of Tutus, LLC and chair of the SAIA Aerial Work Platforms (AWP)/Mobile Elevating Work Platforms (MEWP) Council. Contact him at fhester@gotutus.com.

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TOOL TETHERING: PREVENTING LOSS

Tool tethering prevents deaths, injuries, and damage caused by dropped objects.

By Rob Luckey and Matt McKernan
ool tethering is a relatively new safety measure in the scaffold and access industry. While the federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has not yet mandated tool tethering, many general contractors are now requiring the use of tool tethers – and with good reason.

Second Leading Cause of Death
According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), there were 241 deaths caused by dropped objects in the U.S. in 2019. OSHA’s “Focus Four” training recognizes “struck by an object” as the second of four leading causes of worker deaths on construction sites. In 2018, according to an analysis of BLS reports by the General Building Contractor Association, falls were the leading cause of death (34%); struck by an object was second (11%); electrocutions, third (9%), and caught-in/between, fourth (6%).

The BLS reported that in 2019 there were 54,030 cases of non-fatal falling struck-by objects injuries across all occupations.

The National Safety Council Injury Facts website used BLS statistics to conclude that contact with objects and equipment is the third-leading cause of occupational injuries resulting in days away from work, exceeded only by over-exertion/bodily reaction and falls/slips/trips. The construction industry is one of the industries most at risk for these injuries.

Besides time loss at work, there are other costs. A Liberty Mutual Insurance study estimated that $5.2 billion was paid out in worker’s compensation claims for “struck by objects” in 2016. Dropped objects do not need to cause injury to be costly – retrieval of dropped objects is frequently cited as a cause for lost employee production. Finally, although difficult to measure, damage to equipment, structures, and the environment is also costly.

Even lightweight objects can cause death or injury, as noted during the Fall Protection Equipment Council meeting held at the Scaffold & Access Industry Association (SAIA) 2021 Committee Week. Rob Luckey, council chair, said, “Even a bolt dropped four or five stories can cause injury or death.”

Dropped objects can also cause injuries to people who are not workers or cause damage to their property. Matt McKernan, council co-chair, gave the example of working on an overpass and having a tool drop on someone’s car.

Tool Tethering + Training + Inspection = Prevention
Tool tethering equipment combined with appropriate worker training and regular equipment inspection can help to prevent these deaths, injuries, and damage. Manufacturers should comply with the 2018 American National Standards Institute (ANSI)/International Safety Equipment Association (ISEA) 121 standard, which covers four categories of dropped objects prevention solutions: tool anchors, tool attachments, tool tethers, and containers (see Figure 1).
These categories are defined as:

- Anchor – The beginning point (human body or structure) at which a tether is attached and is relied upon to prevent a tool from dropping. Examples of this would be the d-ring on a wrist tether or a tether point on a tool belt as the body becomes the anchoring point. In the case of drop prevention, keep in mind that an anchor point could be attached to the human body in this way, unlike fall protection where it is an anchored structure.

- Attachment – Products applied to tools being used at height to create secure connection points for tool tethers. At least two locking features, captured eye and locking captive carabiner, are required (see Figure 2).

- Tether – A length of material with at least one connector on each end that will connect a tool to an appropriate anchor point (see Figure 3).

- Container – A bucket, tool bag, or similar device used to hold or transport tools, other equipment, or parts to-and-from heights. The container must include at least one of the following: closure system; integral anchor points; or integral tethers.

All four categories have well defined design testing and performance criteria. Most importantly, the standard ensures that regardless of the manufacturer, the equipment is tested in a consistent manner, including the fixtures, rigs, etc., as well as the number of drops, the environmental conditions, and how the test will be done. The standard requires that all rated products are tested in hot, cold, wet, and dry conditions.

The criteria for whether a sample passes or fails are set, and the sample size and quantity of tests required for each sample are specified. Dynamic and static testing requirements are outlined in the standard, and test factors and safety buffers (testing at longer length) for each category are defined. For anchors, attachments, and tethers, the free-fall drop distance must be twice the tether length specified by the manufacturer.

Training is the Key to Safe Use
Tethering equipment is weighted for different strengths, and the workers need training on how to use this equipment safely. Luckey said, “A worker can’t just grab one and use it. There are different requirements for which tool tether to use, and non-captive-eye tools have to be re-taped on a timeline. The workers even need training on how to tape these tools.”

McKernan recommends that companies develop a dropped-object prevention program that includes a good written procedure, the backbone of any prevention program. Successful written procedures usually include three major components:

- Purpose, scope, and definitions,
- Employee responsibilities, and
- Work practices.

Other covered topics may include specific tasks and equipment outlines, permanent exclusion zones, high risk activities, and exceptions to work practices.

Getting Started in Three Easy Steps
Before establishing tool tethering and a dropped-object prevention program, make sure you understand the parts involved in dropped-object prevention and that you know your tools.

Common hand and power tools have varying features that can accommodate a direct tool tether connection or require the installation of a tool attachment to connect a tool tether. The three main types of tools are open-handle tools, captive-eye tools, and closed/open handle power tools.
To build your own tool tethering system:
1. Start with the tool/object you would like to tether. Does it have an open handle or captive-eye hole?
2. Select a solution based on the weight of your tool/object. Do you need an attachment?
3. Choose the best tethering solution for the appropriate weight capacity.

Once you have established the best tethering solution for each tool, be sure to develop a training program and procedural guidelines for your employees.

Challenges and Resources
Introducing tool tethering on a jobsite may come with some challenges. One council member commented that at first workers tried to tether all their tools, and it was too many to work safely or productively. The company has tried a few different options, such as limiting the number of tools that workers were carrying.

There are many resources available to help with establishing an effective dropped-objects prevention program and finding solutions to unanticipated situations.

About the Authors
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COME TOGETHER — IN PERSON!

REGISTER TODAY FOR THE SCAFFOLD & ACCESS INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION (SAIA) 2021 ANNUAL CONVENTION & EXPOSITION, TO BE HELD AUGUST 29 – SEPTEMBER 2 IN DOWNTOWN CLEVELAND, OHIO.

BY CATHEE JOHNSON PHILLIPS
Come together in person (at last!) with scaffold and access professionals from across the U.S. and the world at the Scaffold & Access Industry Association (SAIA) 2021 Annual Convention & Exposition, to be held August 29-September 2 at the Hilton Cleveland Downtown. During these hopefully post-pandemic times, the event will provide a safe place to discuss lessons learned and next steps for the industry.

Safety is First
As always, the SAIA is committed to the safety of its members and friends and will communicate proactively about the status of the meeting in regard to the impact of the coronavirus. The SAIA website will be updated regularly with any new developments.

Begin with Training
The week will begin with world-class training from the SAIA University, including a Train the Trainer Facilitator Skills Workshop and Competent Person Training (CPT) for Frame, Suspended, and System Scaffold. Train the Trainer is designed specifically for the scaffold industry and teaches basic ideas about training and adult learning skills. CPT courses cover the basics of the three major supported scaffold systems; CPT designations are good for a three-year period and can be renewed by attending a course.

The new American National Standards Institute (ANSI)/SAIA A92 suite of standards have introduced a training standard to implement safe use requirements. When combined with hands-on practical training and evaluations, the International Powered Access Federation (IPAF) interactive, online mobile elevating work platform (MEWP) operator theory course fulfills the new training requirements. As part of the new SAIA/IPAF Alliance, the SAIA has become an IPAF-approved training center that will allow its Accredited Training Institutes (ATIs) to become qualified evaluators and offer this MEWP operator training program.
The Hotel
The Hilton Cleveland Downtown Hotel offers expansive views of Lake Erie. The Rock & Roll Hall of Fame and FirstEnergy Stadium (home of the Cleveland Browns) sit just across the street and Rocket Mortgage FieldHouse, Playhouse Square, and East 4th Street shopping are within walking distance of the hotel. The SAIA has negotiated a special room rate of $209 (not including taxes or fees) for all convention attendees. When you make your reservation, please be sure to mention that you are with the SAIA group to receive the discounted rate. Do not use any third-party providers to make your reservations.

Getting There
Driving to Cleveland will most likely follow one of four major Interstate Highways, 165, 169, 170, or I74. Visit https://www.sixt.com/magazine/tips/driving-tips-ohio/ for the latest information on the state’s driving laws.

Air travel to Cleveland Hopkins International Airport is offered by 10 airlines, including American, Delta, Southwest, United Airlines, and others. The hotel does not offer shuttle service to and from the airport, but ground transportation for the 12-mile trip from the airport to the hotel is available via taxis and other car and shuttle services. The Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority (RTA) station on the lower level of the main terminal provides service between the airport and downtown Cleveland. Hop on the RTA Red Line Rapid Train which will take you directly to Cleveland’s Public Square.

Getting Around the Area
Public transportation is the easiest, fastest, and cheapest way to get around the city. The RTA includes rails, buses, and the Bus Rapid Transit System (BRT) that stop near major tourist attractions throughout the Cleveland area and surrounding towns. The rail and trolley are easier to understand than the bus system. Consider buying a Cleveland Pass, which provides unlimited rides on buses, trains, trolleys, and the BRT.

The Sunshine
In August, average temperatures in Cleveland range from 63 F to 81 F, and the average humidity is 55%. Cleveland has an average of 166 sunny days a year, compared with the U.S average of 205 days. Be sure to pack an umbrella!

Accordingly, the SAIA will offer a two-day MEWP evaluator course on August 29-30 to the ATIs and additionally offer MEWP operator training on August 30 with the delivery of hands-on training and evaluations to candidates who have successfully completed the IPAF MEWP eLearning theory course. Register now to secure a seat at these limited-size training courses.

Participate in Relevant Sessions
The 2021 Annual Convention & Exposition is one of the few opportunities for industry professionals to meet face-to-face with their peers and brainstorm new and innovative ideas to promote the safety of the workforce. The training facilitators, session speakers, and presenters for the general sessions and breakouts are all experts in their field and will discuss emerging industry trends, safe practices, and standards.

Speaker Highlights
Not since Laurel and Hardy will such a dynamic team have taken the stage when Kevin O’Shea and Tony Groat join forces to present at the convention. The duo will bring their expertise on the topic of “User Need to Develop MCWP and MEWP Safe Use Programs.” Ensuring a safe and productive worksite requires application, inspection, training, maintenance, repair, and safe operation of the equipment. With many employees, other site workers, and those in proximity of the work, including the public, safe use programs are a critical tool to ensure that all responsibilities are identified, planned, and executed. This is a can’t-miss session.

Tim Olesczuk will present his third SAIA Annual Convention speaking session. He will offer his take on how COVID-19 impacted the access industry and discuss the current state and future direction of the scaffolding market following the turmoil of 2020. He will also provide an update on recent mergers and acquisitions activity and discuss several recent scaffolding transactions as well as offer insight into the current buyer landscape.

Micah Turner’s presentation will cover ways to elevate the industry to new heights, to change the way the industry is looked at by the construction industry, and to reverse the trend of a mere price-driven service that just drives prices, and consequently quality, down.

Stuart Robles will offer insight on how to sell consultatively to the B2B commercial and industrial markets. It applies to all subcontractors and material suppliers who sell service or products to general contractors, engineering, procurement, and construction (EPC) contractors, or facility owners. Topics
will include the sales plan, evaluating the current talent, best practices in key performance indicators (PCIs), and more!

As a former U.S. Army Special Forces commander, **Sean Patton** brings a unique perspective to the business world as an entrepreneur and business leadership coach. Learn how to distinguish yourself in the crowded marketplace, find great veteran team members, and create lasting loyalty by establishing a leadership-rich culture.

**And there’s more!**

Exclusive product demos will provide attendees the opportunity to hear more in-depth information about exhibiting companies’ products and services. Various meetings and receptions will round out the agenda, with the popular President’s Gala and After Party, sponsored by STVA Manufacturing & Sales and providing a night of recognition and celebration of members’ accomplishments.

**Explore Top-Notch Exhibitions**
The SAIA 2021 Annual Convention & Exposition provides the best opportunity for business owners, buyers, managers, safety professionals, and others in the scaffold and access industry to meet with manufacturers and suppliers and experience their products first-hand. With dedicated show hours, two exhibitor receptions/lunches, and product demos, attendees will not need to choose between a workshop or the expo. They can fully invest their time to develop key connections and explore technologies essential to staying current in today’s competitive business environment.

**Connect Easily**
The SAIA convention app, sponsored by Fraco Products, Ltd., takes social connections and meeting participation to the next level. The app supplies all the information needed to make the most of the convention – full schedules, exhibitor and sponsor information, and updates on schedule changes, special offers, and more. Attendees can also use the app to connect with other convention attendees before, during, and after the meeting.

**Questions?**
For general information about the meeting or to register to attend the 2021 Convention & Exposition, visit saiaonline.org. For more information about the Exposition, contact Brandi Fox at 816.595.4833 or brandi@saiaonline.org. For more information about the meeting, contact Daphne Reitz at 816.595.4840 or daphne@saiaonline.org.

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**SAIA 2021 ANNUAL CONVENTION & EXPOSITION SPONSORS**

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- Power Climber
- RBN Insurance Services, Inc.
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- Scafom USA, Inc.
- Sky Climber, LLC
- StepUp Scaffold
- Strong Man Safety Products Corp.
- Tractel
- United Scaffolding
- Universal Manufacturing Corp.
- Winsafe

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Many thanks to the sponsors and exhibitors! This list was current as of press time.
COMMITTEE WEEK RECAP

THE ASSOCIATION’S FIRST EVER HYBRID MEETING SUCCESSFULLY BROUGHT MEMBERS AND FRIENDS TOGETHER BOTH IN-PERSON AND VIRTUALLY.

BY CATHEE JOHNSON PHILLIPS WITH THE COUNCIL CHAIRS AND CO-CHAIRS
The Scaffold & Access Industry Association (SAIA) 2021 Committee Week took place April 26-29 in Coral Gables, Florida. More than 130 members and friends participated in this hybrid meeting, including 50 virtually and 82 in person.

The agenda included work sessions for the SAIA Board of Directors, the SAIA Education Foundation Board of Directors, the Scaffolding, Shoring & Forming Institute (SSFI) Committee, and the 12 SAIA Councils. In-person attendees enjoyed a welcome reception sponsored by EZ Scaffold and the Havana Nights President’s Reception sponsored by StepUp Scaffold.

SAIA President Michael Paladino said, “Our first-ever hybrid Committee Week went very well for both in-person and virtual attendees. The members were able to make the most of their time together, and the work accomplished during this week will help to advance our efforts to promote safe practices in the industry. Many thanks to all who made this week possible and to all who participated!”

Council Sessions
APEX Council/Ambassador Committee
Chair Brian Hillier, Fraco Products Ltd.
Co-Chair Corinne Dutil, Fraco Products Ltd.
Chair Brian Hillier announced that the SAIA is dissolving the APEX Council and establishing the Ambassador Committee. One reason for this transition was the ongoing confusion over the meaning of “APEX” and its purpose.

The mission of the new committee is: “To enhance the core membership of the Scaffolding & Access Industry Association (SAIA) by promoting, involving, and encouraging our membership to become an emerging leader of the SAIA and access industry through networking, education, training, and mentoring.” The objectives are:

• To recruit new associates of existing SAIA member companies to engage in the work and success of the SAIA.
• Develop the SAIA mentoring program in an effort to familiarize members with the SAIA’s mission, council work, membership and volunteer leadership opportunities.
• To diversify and expand the member demographic of the SAIA.
• To provide a forum for new members to collaborate with existing members to gain knowledge of the intricacies of the scaffold & access industry.
• To prepare the next generation of SAIA volunteer leaders.

Hillier noted that the committee might establish a rotating roster of ambassadors to greet people at meetings. Members could easily identify an ambassador and talk to them at any time. Hopefully, this would increase member engagement. Co-Chair Corinne Dutil said, “Our role is not to get new members but to welcome and engage new and current members.”
The council is conducting a gap analysis between OSHA regulations and American National Standard Institute (ANSI) standards, a project that arose because of accidents caused by workers doing things based on different regulations. Reviewing OSHA interpretation letters and “incorporated by reference” documents are crucial to the process.

To facilitate the completion of this analysis by council volunteers, the SAIA Communities virtual platform now includes the AWP/MEWP Council as a community. This platform is only available to SAIA members, and members can contact the SAIA staff for the link to the community.

Hester discussed the evolution of ANSI standards since the 1970s. One of the outcomes of the gap analysis may be to discover whether certain safe behaviors inspired by standards over the year are reflected in OSHA regulations. He noted that the recently formed alliance between the SAIA and the International Powered Access Federation (IPAF) will help with the development of appropriate standards and best practices.

The council closed with a presentation on owning a “scaffolding-plus” business by Phil Duane, owner of Schempp Wholesale. He is host of Access Nation, a podcast covering aerial industry news.

Construction Hoist Council
Chair Eric Schmidt, Century Elevators
Co-Chair Shanon Beekman, Fraco Products, Ltd.

The council leaders provided an update on personnel and material hoist standards. The ANSI/American Society of Safety Professionals (ASSP) A10.5 Safety Requirements for Material Hoists standard was rewritten to include products that did not have a home in the standards. The new standard was published and released in August 2020.

The council is in the process of rewriting the ANSI/ASSP A10.4 Safety Requirements for Personnel Hoists and Employee Elevators on Construction and Demolition Sites standards document. Input is needed from members regarding any potential sections where the existing standard is unclear or about issues or problems encountered in local areas. The rewrite will include more information on inspections.

A hot topic for the rewrite is the use of hydraulic instead of spring buffers. The council will be challenging the A17.1 Buffer Sub-committee on the hydraulic buffer test for rack and pinion units. The council leaders believe that the test is not safe for a rack and pinion machine because the existing requirement for a full speed, fully loaded impact test would be expected to cause significant damage to the equipment, creating significant risk instead of testing the integrity of a device. Members are invited to send photos of any damage incurred by using this test.

Other hot topics are motor brake tests for equipment with multiple motors and masts and calculation of hoist square footage. The current standard wording does not address tests for more than two motors and is unclear on how to measure the square footage in some configurations.

The A10 standards continue to evolve. In March 2021, the A10 Main Committee voted to discontinue the ANSI/ASSP 10.22 Safety Requirements For Rope-Guided And Nonguided Workers’ Hoists For Construction And Demolition Operations standard and merge the requirements into A10.4 or A10.5. The council leaders need input from members who are familiar with these hoists. Due to the A10.22 merger, the council has delayed the development of guidelines for how the new A10.5 standard for material hoists will impact the industry.

The Canadian Standards Association (CSA) Group Z185 Safety Code for Personnel Hoists and the Z256 Standards for Material Hoists were last revised in 1987 but were reaffirmed in December 2020. Volunteers are needed to help with revisions to these standards.

The council also discussed creating guidelines for operator training on construction elevators and material hoists and conducting a gap analysis comparing standards to OSHA federal, state, and local regulations. Chair Eric Schmidt noted that the guidelines would not be intended to be a training document itself but rather to offer the SAIA’s recommendations for
information which should be covered by training. Volunteers are needed for both projects.

**Fall Protection Equipment Council**  
*Chair Rob Luckey, FallTech*  
*Co-Chair Matt McKernan, Pure Safety Group*

This session was the first of the day on Workers’ Memorial Day and began with a moment of silence to remember workers killed or injured on the job and to renew the effort to increase safe practices on job sites.

The council business focused on tool tethering on the jobsite. Chair Rob Luckey noted that even a bolt dropped four or five stories can cause injury or death. Other reasons for using tool tethers were discussed, including costly damage to equipment and increased labor costs due to the time it takes workers to retrieve dropped tools.

While OSHA has not yet mandated tool tethering, many general contractors are now requiring the use of tool tethers, and manufacturers comply with the ANSI/ International Safety Equipment Association (ISEA) 121 standard. The straps are weighted for different strengths, and the workers need training on how to use the tethers, lanyards, and attachments safely.

Luckey said, “A worker can’t just grab one and use it. There are different requirements for which tool lanyard to use, and non-captive-eye tools have to be re-taped on a timeline. The workers need training on how to tape these tools.”
The presentation included:
• Detailed review of tool tethers and attachments;
• Information about the ANSI/ISEA 121.2018, such as the 2X safety factor, testing procedures, and labeling requirements;
• Do’s and don’ts;
• Dropped object reports and calculations;
• And more.

Co-Chair Matt McKernan emphasized that the equipment needs to be inspected on a regular basis. A tool-tethering class with detailed information will be offered at the SAIA 2021 Annual Convention & Exposition.

The council also discussed presentation ideas for the 2021 Annual Convention & Exposition, focusing on drops and ways to highlight the need for tethering devices:
• Demo of dropped objects, what can happen;
• Costs of dropped objects resulting from injury or damage;
• Best practices – what leading companies are doing.

Industrial Scaffold Council
Chair Bob Gibson, Sunbelt Rentals
Co-Chair Cody Farrell, Brock Group

Chair Bob Gibson explained the purpose of the council and said, “We cross over into the work of other councils. We’re looking for opportunities to help the scaffold industry in a specific market segment rather than with a type of scaffold.”

The first topic of business was scaffold access in industrial environments and whether the council should provide general practice tips for ladders, stair units, drop-deck ladders, and use of swing gates. The chair noted that some of these have been covered by the Supported Scaffold Council. Members suggested providing tip sheets or toolbox talks, and Wendy Larison, chair of the Supported Scaffold Council, expressed the desire of that council to work with the Industrial Scaffold Council to produce podcasts.

The council also talked about specific practices. For example, when using swing gates and toe boards, should toe boards be placed across the entrances or does that become a tripping hazard? In response, members suggested that many times it depends upon the situation and that a conversation with the customer’s safety division may be needed. The consensus was to develop resources that provide cautions for the various ways that swing gates and toe boards are used.

Another concern is providing daily scaffold update inspections. Gibson noted that doing this can be cumbersome for large industrial sites with 500 to 1,500 scaffolds standing on a particular day. The council talked about the pros and cons of recommending different levels of competent persons – some to do the updates and those who are competent to conduct erection or dismantling inspections. The update person may not be trained for erection or dismantling but would inspect the scaffold to see if its original integrity is being maintained. Any problems found would be reviewed by an erecting competent person.

One of the issues regarding update inspections is OSHA’s definition of “competent person,” which requires both knowledge and experience. According to Gibson, the preamble to an OSHA 1989 letter of interpretation does recognize different levels of competency.

He said, “The majority of scaffolds typically can be 5 x 7 x 27 feet tall. The more complex scaffolds would need someone with more training and experience. We could provide some guidance around that.”

John Royer, Action Scaffold, noted that, as a practical manner, someone in charge of inspections would need at least as much training as a competent person. The SAIA is currently working on an inspector course, which may help to address this and other issues around this training.

International Council
Chair Sam Reese, StepUp Scaffold
Co-Chair Andrew Smith, Avontus Software Corp

Chair Sam Reese began the session with an overview of the world economic outlook, which was positive overall. Although the world economy retracted 5% to 4% last year, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) projects over 6% growth in the gross domestic product (GDP) this year. This outlook is dependent on how countries are dealing with COVID-19 and the rollout of vaccines.

Inflation and other factors may also put a damper on projections. The price of lumber and steel continues to increase; recently, lumber costs increased from 200% to 250%. The cost of ocean freight has increased 300%, with further increases likely to occur.

The chair provided an update on the council’s international fatality research, which compares U.S. and world fatalities in the construction industry. Despite the challenges in comparing data that is defined and collected differently across the globe, the research shows the U.S. construction safety fatality ratings significantly higher than other industrialized nations. The council is looking into the different factors that attribute to the lower fatality ratings in other countries.
certain countries around the world.

Co-Chair Andrew Smith shared information about this research, which is focused on the different training standard and how different countries determine competency. Common competency language is used, and many countries require employers to declare who is competent and that a competent person is onsite. He summarized training practices in Denmark, Norway, and South Africa, all of which have government-mandated training programs.

In Denmark the government reimburses companies up to 80% of the mandated three-week scaffold training course. Like Denmark, Norway mandates a three-week training course but also offers an advanced scaffold certification that requires several years of training and experience and cumulates in a five-hour written exam and five-day practical exam. In South Africa, there has been real movement in standardization of scaffold erection, training, and construction regulations. From entry to team leader, the scaffold training takes 2-1/2 years, and there is a specific curriculum detailed by standards for each job title. Competent persons are required onsite. Pulp and paper, gas, and possibly power industries are going to enforce this mandated standard as early as January 2022.

He also highlighted U.K. training practices, which, like the U.S. and Canada, does not mandate training but does require competency. The U.K. Contractors Leadership Council (CLC) has mandated requirements, and the Construction Industry Scaffolders Record Scheme (CISRS) has established job titles based on allowable duties and tasks.

The council requested input about future research topics, such as comparing international standards and regulatory structures, the role of contractors/owners in safety, and cultural differences. Members suggested looking at training content in terms of how repetitive or in-depth it is; if there is a correlation between government-funded training and the number of injuries; and how the market bears the increased labor cost where stringent training is required.

**Mast Climbing Council**

Chair Kevin O’Shea, Hydro Mobile, Inc.

Co-Chair Brad Kruger, Sunbelt Rentals

The Mast Climbing Council has previously developed and published three tip sheets: Ground Conditions, Tying to Structures, and Safe Use. Chair Kevin O’Shea began the session by asking for members’ feedback regarding two new tip sheets currently in progress, Duty of Care and The Job Survey. The SAIA Regulatory and Review Committee had reviewed these tip sheets and asked if it would be useful to provide definitions of some industry terminology.

The next item of business was annual and frequent inspections and whether the industry should introduce inspection decals for mast climbing work platforms (MCWPs) and, if so, should the SAIA provide guidance for the industry. The council discussed whether the decals would be for drive units, towers, or bridges, whether they could be used for transport platforms, and other related issues. One member commented that those who are doing quality, consistent inspections should welcome the decals, which would help to level the playing field and make jobsites safer. The chair asked that, as a place to start, members email him with their opinion as to whether the decals are needed.

O’Shea then gave an update on the SAIA/IPAF Alliance. The two groups have signed an agreement to work together to promote safety and training in powered access throughout the U.S., Canada, and Mexico. The IPAF International MCWP Committee has invited two members of the SAIA MCWP fraternity to join them at their next meeting.

“This is an exciting development,” O’Shea said. “It could produce a more unified MCWP industry and create a much louder voice. The possibilities of this agreement could be extremely significant.”

The next item of business was the industry’s view on transference of workers to and from the work platform. There have been reported fatalities when workers have tried to step from the machine to the building and vice versa, but OSHA has not updated these regulations since 1970 and still includes MCWPs under supported scaffold. OSHA has also not incorporated ANSI/SAIA A92.9 by reference. The council members provided input on whether the industry should develop guidance on safe transference for users and owners.

The session closed with a conversation about some questions asked by general contractors and whether the council should address these concerns in the future. Co-Chair Brad Kruger encouraged the attendees to email their comments about the meeting topics.
Permanent Installation (PI) Council
Chair Mike Boyer, Tractel
Co-Chair Brian Andrews, Bee Access

The council meeting focused on the OSHA 29CFR 1910 Subpart D Walking/Working surfaces and Subpart I Personal Fall Protection Systems, which was revised four years ago regarding anchor testing. Chair Mike Boyer noted that the changes have had a positive impact on testing of equipment, which seems to be well ingrained in the industry now.

He said, “Now everyone is testing equipment before it is certified for use. And for the most part the testing is conducted in accordance with the SAIA stance on load testing.”

Co-Chair Brian Andrews noted that testing 4 to 1 versus the standard’s 2 to 1 in the field is being reevaluated. There is not consensus in the industry on either the ratio or the ultimate load. The standard states to test to 2,500 and that 5,000 is the ultimate load. The chair said that it depends on the surface and is up to the structural engineer and that the OSHA intent was not to test to 5,000 pounds.

The council still recommends and promotes to test to no more than 2 times the rated capacity as stated in the letter published in 2011. It was pointed out that no new publication was necessary as the letter is available on the SAIA PI council website.

Suspended Scaffold Council Co-Chair
James Boudreau and Chair Harold Gidish

Plank and Platform Council
Chair Dean Cook, Indian Mill Corp.

Matt Morgan, Mdm Scaffolding, led the session and announced that Susan Scheuer LaDuke retired and has resigned as the council’s chair. He expressed gratitude for her many contributions as chair. Any council member interested in serving as chair should contact Dean Cook.

Morgan presented on the current state of wood production. The price of lumber has increased 250%, due to the continued robust demand of builders combined with a backlogged supply caused by lumber mill shutdowns and shipping delays. Several factors have contributed to the increased demand, including an increase in sales to DIYers at big-box stores and a surge in purchasing of single-family homes.

The full extent of the impact of this situation on the scaffold and access industry is not yet clear, but the increased lumber costs mean that businesses:
- Will have higher upfront costs.
- Find it more difficult and expensive to bid and secure new contracts.
- May struggle to cover unexpected expenses due to a reduced cash flow.
- Risk losing a project due to obstacles in receiving materials on time.
- May need to revisit quoting processes to ensure that bids properly account for current and future price increases.

Additionally, commercial and residential developers may hesitate to begin new projects because of the increased costs. Transparency about this situation when bidding on jobs will be important. Council members suggested adding escalation of costs wording to contracts upfront.

Morgan then moved on to the plank and platform resources available on the SAIA website. The documents are up-to-date, and Morgan asked the members for input about new projects. His suggestion was to create animated videos for the SAIA YouTube channel. Possible topics for these videos include safety inspections, install instructions, tie-down methods, and differences between products. This council could work with the Supported Scaffold Council on this project. Cook is going to look into the costs and details of producing these videos, and member input is welcomed.

Shoring Council
Chair Ron Camp, Atlas Sales Co., Inc.
Co-Chair Mitch Meadows, D.H. Charles Engineering, Inc.

Co-Chair Mitch Meadows welcomed everyone and provided an update on the council’s activities. During the past year, the council went through the Shoring Safety Inspection Checklist and divided it into two separate checklists, for design and installation. The revised checklists are available on the SAIA Shoring Council webpage.

Meadows is currently working on a draft of the table of contents for the new Shoring Design Guide, and Chair Ron Camp has been working on Fall Protection for Shoring. Volunteers are needed for both projects.

Meadows said, “The goals for the Shoring Design Guide are to create a resource for everyone that shares best practices and answers to common questions, a resource that moves us forward and allows us to be safer. It should be a reference for designers and engineers. We need your knowledge and backing of this document.”

Meadows suggested establishing a committee to represent the industry overall and several subcommittees to represent shoring topics, such as slab and beam and needle beam shoring. He then discussed several possible topics and gave examples of the questions that might need to be answered. The purpose is not to give a step-by-step design process but to provide general information.

Camp presented the draft of the outline for the fall protection document. Topics include fall protection requirements, different fall protection systems, different shoring systems, applicable fall protection systems for the shoring systems, and possibly Canadian standards. He said, “We could suggest what might or might not work for different situations.”

Those situations could include the leading edge in relation to the height of the platform.
when using self-retracting lanyards, limitations of horizontal lifelines, and the limitations of different fall protection systems. The council would like to hear from members about additional conditions that need to be covered, new fall protection systems, special projects they have done, and the Canadian fall protection standards. The council will send out an email to everyone to seek contributions for the shoring design and fall protection guides.

Supported Scaffold Council
Chair Wendy Larison, Urban Scaffolding, Ltd.
Co-Chair David Johnson, SkyLine Scaffold, Inc.
Co-Chair James McNamara, Safety Scaffolds, Inc.

Chair Wendy Larison began the session with comments about the Scaffold Component Inspection PowerPoint Presentation, which is available on the SAIA website. The inspection document is a members-only resource, and a member login is required to access the presentation.

She then asked for members’ assistance with the scaffold warning labels available through the SAIA for a minimal cost. Council members reviewed color and wording revisions that could increase the label’s effectiveness. The council will look at the ANSI standards for label colors to be sure that the colors are correct.

Next up was an update on the development of the Frame and Brace Cantilevered Scaffolding Tip Sheet, which currently covers the use of side brackets, end brackets, tube and clamp, and cantilever beams. The chair reported that the Industrial Scaffold Council will work with them on system scaffold cantilevers.

The chair shared a draft of a gap analysis spreadsheet prepared by Jay Gordon, Klimer Platforms. All councils are working on a gap analysis comparing industry best practices, standards, and regulations with what is actually going on in the field. One purpose of this analysis is to identify regulations that do not make sense. Volunteers are needed to help get this project going.

The chair then invited David H. Glabe, P.E., to discuss the development of guidelines for system scaffold bracing, which the council had previously considered. He noted that the guidelines would not supplant a design by a qualified person and presented examples of different bracing configurations for single bay towers and large area scaffolds.

He said, “The document would have to be conservative and show bracing alternatives. It might help the estimator and contractor to come to common ground.”

Glabe then suggested offering guidelines for frame scaffold bracing and presented various acceptable configurations. The consensus of the attendees was that guidelines for both system scaffold and frame bracing would be useful and that the projects should proceed.

The council also reached consensus on providing guidelines for pinning scaffold components together. This project was suggested by the Regulatory and Review Committee, which had received a question about when pinning is necessary. Larison suggested that the council could work with the Scaffolding, Shoring & Forming Institute (SSF1) Committee to develop these guidelines.

The council also discussed scaffold planking and wind uplift, the council’s new podcast about the Small Scaffold Tip Sheet, National Scaffolders Day, which was January 14, 2021, and the future of scaffold using robots – NASA has a YouTube video that shows Robot Valkyrie erecting scaffold, albeit very slowly.

Suspended Scaffold Council
Chair Harold Gidish, Sky Climber, LLC
Co-Chair Jim Boudreau, Tractel

The council leaders began the session with an update on current council projects. The hoist tag has been reviewed twice, the comments have been answered, and the tag is ready for SAIA approval. Based on results with using the prototype in the field, the tag will now be plastic and laminated for durability.

The images for the visual Code of Safe Practices have been changed based on council members’ comments. The document has been reviewed twice and is ready to be submitted for approval. Chair Harold Gidish thanked everyone for their assistance.

The study guide for the Suspended Scaffold Competent Person Training (CPT) course is in the process of being rewritten, and input from several members and companies has been received. New photos and diagrams are needed, and a list of the needed images is available by contacting Daphne Reitz, SAIA outreach training manager. Gidish noted that Bee Access has welding covered with excellent jobs, but that they also need photos of bad jobs. He asked that members email photos to training@saiaonline.org as soon as possible.

The meeting closed with a request for articles for the SA Magazine and suggestions for speakers at the SAIA 2021 Annual Convention & Exposition. Co-Chair Jim Boudreau said, “If you’re not a writer, don’t be bashful. We’ll take your information. The magazine staff is happy to put it in the correct format and send it back to you for your review.”

To Be Continued
The council will continue their work in the coming months via phone calls, emails, and online meetings. The next opportunity for members and friends to come together will be the SAIA Annual Convention & Exposition, August 29-September 2 at the Hilton Cleveland Downtown. Registration is now open on the SAIA website.
BEE ACCESS BRAND REFRESH

Bee Access, a leader in temporary and permanent suspended access equipment, has recently announced a refresh of its core brand elements. Reflecting the growth and evolution of Bee Access, the brand refresh elevates the company’s strength, stability, and focus on innovation and continued improvement to be the best in the industry. Bee Access’s brand refresh is not only cosmetic but also helps to celebrate their upcoming 25th anniversary.

Bee Access President John Belmonte said, “While this is a significant change, our core beliefs and values haven’t changed. For the past 25 years, Bee Access has focused on being the leader in suspended access equipment with a strong focus on customer service. Over the last few months, we have poured our hearts and souls into creating a new image that would accurately depict who we are as the Bee Team.”

Additionally, over the next few months, the company will be rolling out a refreshed company website, expanded digital offerings, and updated marketing materials to better support customers in the field. Belmonte said, “We believe that the new brand assertively states a renewed energy and forward-thinking approach that will help us become even better partners to our customers. In the spirit of rebranding, we will continue to commit to our customers and provide the same, or better, level of service you have grown to expect. We’d like to take the opportunity to thank our loyal customers and business partners for your trust and friendship in business.”

EUROPEAN RENTAL PROJECTED TO GROW 3.6% THIS YEAR

The European Rental Association (ERA) has issued a second update to its 2020 Market Report and is forecasting that Europe’s equipment rental industry will be flat in 2021 before recovering to growth of 6% in 2022. The ERA also said the 2020 performance was worse than originally estimated, with total rental revenues down 8%.

The main changes from the first update in February 2021 concern the 2020 figures, which confirm the regional discrepancy in the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, with a worsening picture for the southern European countries and the UK, and a better-than-expected situation for countries in central and northern Europe.

BETA MAX HOISTS AND LGH COMBINE

BETA MAX Hoists and LGH have joined forces in a strategic partnership to better support the construction industry. BETA MAX Hoists Portable and Maxial Track systems will be fully stocked for sales, rentals, and prompt service through LGH distribution centers across North America. This partnership ensures that dealers and customers across the U.S. and Canada will have BETA MAX Hoists available from closer shipping points with expedited delivery and provide customer service with 24/7 response capabilities with hands-on support when needed.
The SAIA Annual Convention & Exposition brings together the largest gathering of scaffold and access industry professionals. The Convention features industry-focused educational sessions and showcases the nation’s top scaffold and access exhibitors.

This yearly event is also one of the best opportunities for members to converge face-to-face in one location to voice concerns, share opinions and expertise, discuss best practices, and make decisions about the Association, their industry, and related topics.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!
For more information visit: www.saiaonline.org/2021annualconvention
JLG ELECTRIC SCISSOR LIFTS AND SKYTRAK TELEHANDLERS WIN LCO AWARDS

JLG Industries, Inc., an Oshkosh Corporation company [NYSE:OSK] and leading global manufacturer of mobile elevating work platforms (MEWPs) and telehandlers, announces that EquipmentWatch has recognized JLG electric scissor lifts and SkyTrak telehandlers with its prestigious 2021 Lowest Cost of Ownership (LCO) awards.

"Based on the average annual utilization and residual value, EquipmentWatch analysts were able to determine that JLG electric scissor lifts and SkyTrak telehandlers will have the lowest 5-year total cost of ownership across all equipment brands and models they evaluated within the industry," says Jennifer Stiansen, director of marketing for JLG. “It is truly an honor to be distinguished by EquipmentWatch in two key product categories.”

Designed to increase productivity and enhance safety on the job, JLG electric scissor lifts offer many features and benefits that contribute to their LCO, including enhanced uptime, reduced charging time, reduced service intervals, a quieter work area, less dependency on hydraulic oils, and zero emissions. Delivering comfort and productivity for a full day’s work, SkyTrak telehandlers feature improved boom function speeds, a single joystick for greater multifunction capability, an integrated armrest, and optional air conditioning for increased comfort.

For more details about the EquipmentWatch 2021 Lowest Cost of Ownership Awards, visit: https://equipmentwatch.com/methodology-lowest-cost-ownership-awards/. For more information about JLG® products and services, visit www.jlg.com.

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Sunstate Scaffold Services recently teamed with Layher North America to support the construction of an $80M air traffic control tower at the Southwest Florida International Airport using SIM technology. Layher digital support utilizes scaffolding information modeling to improve a scaffolders’ ability to plan, design, order, and coordinate projects. Together, Layher engineering design & digital support boost efficiency.

For more information: layherna.com