

Home Rules

Rules around your home should be clear and consistent. When you're working with swingstages you know that one broken rule can end in disaster.

Teach your family why certain rules are needed at home and on the job. Explain how following the rules will avoid incidents or injury.

Your children may use ropes, swings, and other playground equipment that is often dangerous. Teach them not to overload the



swing, the tire on the rope, or other setups. It might be one of them that gets hurt when the rope breaks or the swing chain snaps.

Talk with your family members about different safety rules. Let them participate and tell you what they think is the safe way. Then find a set of rules that you all think is fair and adequate.

Your family will know that you care if the rules are understood and consistent.

Let them know what you do at work and why you always follow the safety rules in your job.

Your Life is on the Line

As with any tool, you need to take good care of swingstage equipment and accessories. Your life and others are on the line. Use according to technical specifications.

Regular inspection and maintenance of gear by competent staff or engineers will greatly reduce the chance of serious mishaps.

Your part in the safety plan is to keep your eyes open for hazards and faulty equipment.

Follow all safety procedures and practices to the letter, and your time on the swingstage will be safe and productive.

For more information, refer to current applicable Occupational Health and Safety Legislation.

The Alberta Construction Safety Association's mission is to



provide quality advice and education for the construction industry that will reduce human suffering and financial costs associated with workplace incidents. This brochure is part of a series, **The Toolbox Brochures**, which are available on a variety of safety topics. If you have any questions or comments please contact:

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Swingstages



Making Safety A Way Of Life



The Alberta Construction Safety Association

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Setting the Stage for Safety

At work, you don't play around. Proper set-up methods require your skills and close attention. Using swingstages requires your best effort and your full attention to safety details.

Your actions speak louder than words. Leading the way by demonstrating proper safety strategies is the best example to set.

First Time, Every Time

The first time you use a swingstage is the time to do it 100% right.

New hires have fewer incidents than experienced swingstage workers—you must keep your attitude and safety practices in a “first time” mode. Your ongoing concern for using safe equipment and procedures is your best defense against injury or life-threatening situations.

Make sure:

- Your safety harness and lifeline are properly connected to separate and adequate anchor points.
- All operations are performed as specified by the manufacturer or those certified by an engineer.

Consult the Occupational Health & Safety Legislation, and follow the manufacturer's specifications.



Safety Training and Planning

All swingstage workers need training and updated safety information to be efficient and safe while on the job.

Consult appropriate engineering services and a safety professional if you need additional information. You, your supervisor, and co-workers all have a stake in knowing that safety procedures are current and the information is accurate.



Inspecting, rigging, and working on a swingstage is no small challenge. Planning for safety is important.

Check and make sure that:

- The platform is constructed properly and all materials are in good condition.
- The scaffold has the necessary toe boards and guardrails.
- The points of support are in good structural condition.
- Emergency procedures are in place.
- Plan so you can communicate and rescue.
- You have inspected the ropes/cables, harness.
- Wire ropes are lubricated and have no kinks.
- All overhead rigging, counterweights, anchorages, and connections are properly anchored.



Working on the Swingstage

Slips and falls while working on a swingstage are common. Faulty rigging or poorly built scaffolding are other frequent causes of incidents.

Make sure your life line will do what it's supposed to—save your life. Check it and use it properly—every time.

Follow these precautions:

- Anchor platforms properly to the stirrups to prevent swaying.
- Fasten your lanyard to your life line before getting on the scaffold.
- Wear a parachute-style harness connected to your lanyard.
- Attach life lines to a substantial part of the construction structure—never tie life lines or rigging to the scaffolding or the same anchor point.
- Run life lines to the ground.
- Operate a scaffold with the number of workers it is designed for—never exceed this limit.
- Do not overload your scaffold—know its limits.
- Do not combine scaffolds or bridge between them.
- Use the right kind of rope for the weight and job you are doing—check the manufacturer's instructions.
- Stop working if you see anything wrong—immediately report the situation to your supervisor.