

Pump Jack Scaffolding Requirements

OHBA Safety Pages

A pump jack scaffold is a platform supported by moveable brackets on vertical poles.

Pump jacks are relatively inexpensive and useful when it's necessary to work at various heights. Pump jacks are also practical for work where two buildings are so close together that a ladder jack scaffold cannot be installed at the proper angle. There are two basic types: steel and aluminum. Steel pump jacks are made of pressed metal and are designed for use on double-thick two-inch by four-inch wood poles. Aluminum pump jacks are made of aluminum extrusions and are designed for special four-inch by four-inch aluminum poles. Steel pump jack components and aluminum pump jack components can't be interchanged.

- Pump jack brackets, braces, and accessories must be fabricated from metal plates and angles. [29 CFR 1926.452(j)(1)]
- Each pump jack bracket must have two positive gripping mechanisms to prevent any failure or slippage. [29 CFR 1926.452(j)(1)]
- When guardrails are used for fall protection, a workbench may be used as the toprail only if it meets all requirements of paragraphs 29 CFR 1926.451(g)(4)(ii), 29 CFR 1926.451(g)(4)(vii), (viii) and 29 CFR 1926.451(g)(4)(xiii). [29 CFR 1926.452(j)(3)]
- Work benches must not be used as scaffold platforms. [29 CFR 1926.452(j)(4)]
- Poles must be secured to the structure by rigid triangular bracing, or equivalent, at the [29 CFR 1926.452(j)(2)]:
 - Bottom
 - Top
 - Other points as necessary
- When bracing already installed has to be removed so the pump jack can pass, an additional brace must be installed approximately 4 feet above the original brace before it is removed. The additional brace must be left in place until the pump jack has been moved and the original brace reinstalled. [29 CFR 1926.452(j)(2)]
- When poles are made of wood, the pole lumber must be [29 CFR 1926.452(j)(5)]:
 - Straight-grained
 - Free of shakes
 - Free of large loose or dead knots, and other defects that might impair strength.
- When wood poles of two continuous lengths are joined together, the seam must be parallel to the bracket. [29 CFR 1926.452(j)(6)]
- To develop full strength when two-by-fours are spliced to make a pole, mending plates must be installed at all splices. [29 CFR 1926.452(j)(7)]
- Wood poles may not exceed 30 feet in height 29 CFR 1926 Subpart L Appendix A (j).
- When 2 x 4s are spliced together to make a 4 x 4-inch wood pole, they must be:
 - Spliced with 10 penny common nails no more than 12 inches center to center.
 - Staggered uniformly from the opposite outside edges.
- Maximum intended load for pump jack scaffolds is 500 pounds, applied at the center of the platform span. [29 CFR 1926 Subpart L Appendix A (j)]
- Not more than two employees may be on a pump jack scaffold between any two supports at one time. [29 CFR 1926 Subpart L Appendix A (2)(j)]



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consult with legal counsel as they deem appropriate.

Employer: _____ Project: _____

Date: _____ Time: _____ Shift: _____

Number in crew: _____ Number attending: _____

Safety or Health issues discussed. Include recent accident investigations and hazards involving tools, equipment, the work environment, work practices and any Safety or Health recommendations:

Follow up on recommendations from last safety meeting:

Record of those attending:

Name: (please print)	Signature:	Company:
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		
6.		
7.		
8.		
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10.		
11.		
12.		

Supervisor's remarks: _____

Supervisor: _____ (Print) _____ (Signature)

Examples of Pump Jacks



An example of Pump Jacks showing all features.



A Pump Jack scaffold's triangular bracing.



Pump Jack Scaffolds will normally have a work bench that can act as a top rail if it is 38 to 45 inches. Don't forget a midrail and guarding the ends – both are missing in this picture.