



1314 Hoadley Street • Shreveport, LA 71104  
Phone: 318-222-0702 • 800-845-0845  
Fax: 318-222-0707  
nonstopscaffolding.com

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## Safety Bulletin - Assessing Damaged Scaffolding

We are often asked about the correct way to repair damaged Non-Stop scaffolding after a destructive event such as a wall blowing over on it, being blown over in a storm or high winds, or even the building under construction burning down and warping the scaffolding.

When an object is bent, the knee-jerk reaction is to simply straighten it back out, and in the great majority of cases that would be fine; however, in the case of scaffolding supporting workers at height, it is imperative the repaired components have the same structural integrity they had when new.

We use very high grade tubing in the construction of Non-Stop scaffolding. In fact, we guarantee that if a tower is ever bent in normal use, we replace it free. Although the working load of a tower is 4,000 pounds, it will support over 40,000 pounds without failing. Therefore, if a tower or other component is bent during a destructive event, it has been subjected to forces well beyond its design limits. The integrity of the materials and welds are now in question.

Our experience gained while making this scaffolding since 1976 has taught us what components can be saved and what components should be scrapped. General guidelines for assessing components are on page 2 of this document.

Sometimes the “fix or scrap” decision can be made based on simple economics - it’s cheaper to buy a new one than to fix it. For instance, an elevating carriage can be repaired by cutting out the damaged parts, sourcing correct thickness materials, cutting new parts to the proper length, fixing them in the proper alignment, and then welding them to meet AWS standards. All of this must be done by a business entity with the proper credentials and product liability insurance. Replacement is always better.

X-braces are an item that can be straightened as long as the angle iron is not buckled or fractured in the straightening process. Do not apply heat. This must be performed by qualified individuals.

If any questions arise, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Justin Breithaupt, Jr.", is written over the typed name and company information.

Justin Breithaupt, Jr.  
Non-Stop Scaffolding, Inc.

Check our website for any update to this document before proceeding.

Guidelines for assessing individual Non-Stop components:

**9-Foot Tower Extensions** minimum starting point: Must be straight and true within ¼ inch end to end. Flatness: Must not “rock” more than 1/16” on a flat surface. Any extensions bent beyond this degree must be taken out of service. X-brace locks torn off may be replaced with original Non-Stop parts. Inspect all welds.

**9-Foot Base Towers:** Same as 9’ Extensions.

**Elevating Carriages:** See page 1. Inspect all welds.

**Winches:** Contact Non-Stop with pictures of individual winches.

**Leveling Jacks:** If bent, replace.

**X-braces:** See page 1.

**Wall Tie-In Brackets:** If bent, replace.

For other components, contact Non-Stop at 800-845-0845.