

Caltrans Maintenance Manual

Rock Scaling Chapter

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X.00 INTRODUCTION

Rock scaling is defined as the removal of marginally stable or unstable rocks from the face of a rock slope. Rock scaling is a maintenance management strategy that should be considered when the frequency or volume of rockfall requires additional resources beyond regular maintenance operations and other rockfall management strategies. For the purposes of this Chapter, only hand scaling methods are considered. Hand scaling is defined as scaling performed by workers suspended from ropes using hand-held pry bars or other hand tools to remove marginally stable or unstable rocks.

Scaling operations shall not be permitted unless a competent Lead Scaler, having completed the Caltrans Bank Scaling and Rock Climbing Class Refresher Training, is physically present on the site. Scaling operations shall be under the control of the competent Lead Scaler at all times. All Lead Scalers shall attend the Caltrans Bank Scaling and Rock Climbing Class Refresher Training every three years to maintain their proficiency.

Note: Section 1540(a) of the Construction and General Industrial Safety Orders defines a *competent person* as : “One who is capable of identifying existing and predictable hazards in the surroundings or working conditions which are unsanitary, hazardous, or dangerous to employees, and who has authorization to take prompt corrective measures to eliminate them.”

Scaling operations shall be performed in accordance with the guidelines shown in the Caltrans Bank Scaling and Rock Climbing Manual and the Caltrans Rockfall Mitigation Manual.

Supervisors and Lead Scalers shall be furnished copies of the Caltrans Bank Scaling and Rock Climbing Manual, the Caltrans Rockfall Mitigation Manual, and the Construction and General Industrial Safety Orders of the Division of Industrial Relations (CAL/OSHA), referring to “Fall Protection.” They shall periodically review the Caltrans Bank Scaling and Rock Climbing Manual, the Caltrans Rockfall Mitigation Manual, the Construction and General Industrial Safety Orders, and other pertinent resources to ensure that all applicable regulations are being followed.

X.01 SLOPE SCALING ASSESSMENT FORM

Prior to commencement of any rock scaling operation, a Slope Scaling Assessment Form shall be prepared by a qualified/competent person. The form is designed to identify site factors as they relate to slope stability, site history, rockfall characteristics, and scaling operations. Scaling operations, if appropriate, may begin after review and approval of the form by qualified personnel from Geotechnical Services. The Slope Assessment Form shall represent the current conditions at the site and shall be revised as required if natural or other events change the conditions at the site. Scaling operations must occur within the time limits set forth in the Slope Assessment Form. A copy of the Slope Scaling Assessment Form shall be provided to each scaler, spotter, and ground control person at the site.