

By Jim Robinson

A golden opportunity

The Vancouver branch of Safway Services, Waukesha, Wis., worked with two contractors — NUSSLI Special Events and Show Canada Industries — to provide and coordinate an extensive amount of scaffold products and services for the 2010 Winter Olympics in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada.

Safway provided scaffolding for the Feb. 12 opening and Feb. 28 closing ceremonies, as well as the opening ceremonies for the Paralympic Games scheduled for March 12. More than 130,000 sq. ft. of Safway's equipment is being used

for the ceremonies including:

- 37,000 sq. ft. of stage area for the main stage.

- 88,400-plus sq. ft. of seating riser, used for all seating, a "tech" zone and camera support.

- 6,200 sq. ft. for all access ramps to the main stage.

Safway branches across Canada shipped equipment into Vancouver to support the Olympics' scaffold requirements, the furthest of which came from Hamilton, Ontario.

"Safway is incredibly proud of our accomplishments for the Olympics project, as well as our role within this

extraordinary global event," said Jeff Remfert, Safway Vancouver branch manager. "When you watched the opening ceremonies, it was all taking place on top of and inside of Safway's Safload and SafLock™ scaffolds."

For both the Olympics' competition and non-competition venues, Safway also provided SafLock™ System scaffold for a wide range of access needs and equipment, including:

- 31,000-plus sq. ft. of platforms.

- Nearly 800 vertical ft. of stairs.

- 300-plus linear ft. of pedestrian bridge.

- 21,600-plus sq. ft. for camera towers.

- Ramps, cable bridges and plywood.

For this portion of the project, more than 600 scaffolds were built, with



Scaffolding photos courtesy of Safway Services

VANCOUVER

UPCOMING EVENTS

**Feb. 27 -
March 2, 2011**

**Mandalay Bay Convention
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Contact:
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**Safway Services provided
and coordinated scaffolding
products for the 2010
Winter Olympics held
in Vancouver, British
Columbia, Canada.**



camera towers as tall as 60 ft. and pedestrian bridges ranging from 26 to 65 ft.

Safway planned more than a year in advance for the Olympics project, allowing the Vancouver branch to submit typical drawings, receive approvals and complete the majority of the more difficult mountain builds during the summer and fall months.

The scaffolding company said there were many challenges in the builds, which varied based on location and venue. Wind, seismic and resonance factors were huge challenges in the city venues, while wind and snow loading were the key concerns in the mountains.

"Preplanning, logistics and project management were all key reasons for success, not to mention working with a great partner in NUSSLI Special Event Services," Remfert said. **RM**



**Bauma April 19-25,
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