

Lessons Learned from Losses

Ladder Safety

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- 43% of fatal falls in the last decade have involved a ladder according to the CDC.
- 164,000 people receive emergency room treatment each year in the United States due to ladder related injuries according to the World Health Organization.
- 15% of all occupational deaths are from ladder related falls/injuries.
- Over the last 10 years, ladder-related injuries have increased by 50%.
- OSHA believes 100% of ladder accidents are preventable with proper training and equipment.



The 4 main types of ladder accidents are;

- Selecting the wrong type of ladder
- Using worn or damaged ladders
- Incorrect placement of ladders
- Incorrect use of ladders



A 68 year old custodian was working alone in a mostly empty building and was attempting to remove a 25lb TV bracket from a wall. He was on an 8' fiberglass step ladder and removed 2 or 3 bolts when the bracket shifted, as if on a hinge, throwing him off balance causing him to fall. Because the building was mostly empty and he had trouble getting connectivity on his cell phone, help was slow to reach him. He suffered punctured lungs, broken ribs, a brain bleed and developed pneumonia shortly after the fall. He came perilously close to succumbing to his injuries. The total claim is at almost \$900,000

The claim example illustrates the necessity for all employees using ladders to do so with great care. 3 points of contact must maintained at all times and a job should not be undertaken if it is meant for 2 or more people. Is there other equipment on hand that is a safer option?



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