

HAZARD BULLETIN



Ladder Use

Ladders are essential tools in many industries and utilized for everyday tasks, but improper use can result in serious injuries or fatalities.

Approximately 300 people die annually in the U.S. from ladder-related accidents. MIOSHA urges companies to take an extra moment to prioritize safety by recognizing the risks and implementing best practices when working with ladders.



Request Assistance from the
Consultation Education and Training Division

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Recent Fatalities

- On April 19, 2024, a 27-year-old animal caretaker worker was standing on a 6-foot step ladder installing a 2 x 4 board onto a gate when the employee fell sideways off the ladder onto concrete. The victim was transported to a local hospital. On May 4, 2024, the victim died as a result of the injuries.
- On May 2, 2024, a 67-year-old refrigeration and mechanical technician was found in the back-alley area of a strip mall. The victim was a contractor working for a restaurant. An extension ladder was found nearby. The victim had an apparent head injury to the back of his head.
- On March 27, 2024, a 21-year-old apprentice pipefitter was working on a boiler system being installed for a school addition. The pipefitter was standing on a ladder when the cap on a pressurized boiler line came off and struck the pipefitter in the face.
- On June 6, 2023, a 23-year-old laborer-gutter technician installing gutters from an extension ladder at a job site. A coworker witnessed the victim's eyes roll backwards before losing consciousness and falling approximately 20 feet from the ladder onto the concrete below.

How to Stay Safe

- **Selection:** Always choose the right ladder for the job. If the task is higher than expected, stop and get a taller ladder.
- **Training:** Each employee that uses a ladder must be trained on hazards associated with elevated work as well as the proper use and selection of ladders.
- **Inspection:** Ladders should be inspected before each use to ensure they are in proper working condition.
- **Stay Centered:** Keep your center of gravity inside the ladder rails at all times. Also, do not raise your center of gravity too high by standing on the top two steps.
- **Seek Assistance:** Reach out for help in hazard recognition, best practices, and training.

MIOSHA's [Consultation Education and Training \(CET\) Division](#) offers free statewide safety and health assistance to employers and employees. A staff of experienced professional occupational safety experts, construction safety consultants, and industrial hygienists can provide a wide range of customized services for management and staff.