

Fatal Facts

INCIDENT #3 - Worker falls from 8' step ladder

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF ACCIDENT

An employee was using an 8 ft. step ladder to assist putting up a roof truss for a foyer. When the job was completed, he apparently began descending and fell, hitting his head and sustaining fatal injuries. It is possible that the ladder was folded up when used, contributing to the instability that caused the employee to fall.

ACCIDENT PREVENTION

Provide a training program for each employee using ladders. The training should enable them to recognize hazards related to ladders and the procedures to be followed to minimize those hazards.

COMMENTARY

Falls from ladders is one of the most common accident causes in the construction industry. Ladders seem easy to use but don't take for granted that every worker knows how to use them. Broken ladders with missing feet or broken/missing rungs must be taken out of service. An A-frame ladder should NEVER be used as a straight ladder. An extension ladder can NEVER be taken apart and the sections be used as separate straight ladders. Train your workers in selecting the right ladder for the job and then on how to use that ladder correctly and safely.