



## TOOLBOX TALK #12

Monday Morning Safety Reminders

Vol. 1 No. 12

### LADDERS

We use ladders on a routine basis and it's important that we use them properly. A ladder can cause injury to the person using it, or to someone nearby.

Ladders are made to get you from one level to some other level. When using a ladder, make certain you first inspect it for any damage or defects. If you find any, do not use the ladder. Tag it and report it. Second, make sure you have the proper ladder for the job. Know the height limitation and weight capacity. If you get started and realize you misjudged the ladder, stop and get another ladder. Do not take a shortcut and try to extend the limitations of the ladder.

As we just discussed, ladders have a single and specific purpose: to get you from one level to another. Ladders should not be confused with scaffolding, platforms or braces. Using a ladder in this manner is dangerous. Ladders are built to support weight when the ladder is vertical. They are not made to support weight in the horizontal position.

Never take a chance. Ladders must support their loads with 100% effectiveness. Make sure the rungs are secure and slip protection in place. If you find a rung that is loose, the ladder should not be used. Be safe even with stepladders. Ensure the locking device is secure. You don't have to fall very far to break a leg, or worse. When using extension ladders, make absolutely certain the locking device is secure before climbing on to it. Do not place any ladder in an area where moving equipment is being used, or over other workers.

You know that old superstition that it's bad luck to walk under a ladder. It's not really a superstition. In fact, here, it's company policy. The same thing applies to working on ladders. Not only must you take precautions for your own safety, but also in a manner that does not pose a risk to any other person on a job site. Use them safely and in the manner for which they are made.

**Facilitator Notes: Your challenge is to overcome the lifelong familiar use of ladders among your crew.** Familiarity can pose risk. Set up the different types of ladders being used on your job site and discuss the differences among them as well as their appropriate uses. Insist that your crew understands that serious injury and even death can result from failure to abide by these safety measures.

**Additional Notes:** \_\_\_\_\_  
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**Crew Member Comments:** \_\_\_\_\_  
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**Presented By:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date/Time** \_\_\_\_\_

**Attendees:** \_\_\_\_\_  
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**List additional attendees on back of sheet**