

Attacking Ladder Falls - One Rung at a Time continued

- Position the ladder so that the heel of your palm comfortably reaches the side rails. Test this by standing with your toes at the base of the ladder and holding your arms straight out.

You can reduce falls by training your workers to use these techniques and using appropriate equipment, such as non-slip feet, cleats and ladder tie-offs. The following case study demonstrates the difference safe ladder use can make on your bottom line.

A Ladder Safety Success Story

After Company A paid out more than \$130,000 over 2 years for nine ladder accidents, it decided to implement a safety program. Traveling to various worksites to determine why accidents were happening, the safety director recorded and photographed multiple incidents of ladder misuse. He presented his findings to management in a company-wide analysis of accident drivers and cost and gained approval on a ladder safety program that included:

- Property manager briefings on the primary accident drivers, how those accidents occur and their impact on the company's profitability.
- Safety training for all employees including proper ladder selection; three-point rule; ladder setup; ladder capacity and strength; and ladder inspection, care and maintenance.
- Usage policy development and implementation to demonstrate management's commitment to safety. All workers must acknowledge their receipt and understanding of the policy at the end of training.
- Periodic safety audits to ensure policy and technique compliance that evaluate ladder setup, use, condition and maintenance. Property managers must address and confirm findings in writing.
- Field safety coordinator position established to support safety director and increase safety awareness.

Two years later, ladder accident frequency decreased by half despite a 40 percent increase in the work force. The result: An over-90 percent decrease in the cost of accidents.

You, too, can implement a successful ladder safety program by focusing on the four key elements: selection, inspection, setup and use. Choose the correct ladder for the job; inspect the

ladder; set up the ladder properly; and use safe climbing techniques. (See sidebar for more tips.)

Most importantly, use ladders only for their intended purposes. Don't be creative. Never tie ladders together to gain additional height. Do not use ladders as braces, gangways or as substitutes for planks. And never use a folded stepladder as a straight ladder.

When incorporated into a broader program that includes engineering measures, training and follow-up, you can significantly reduce your risk of falls. And you'll gain a safer, healthier work force, enhanced productivity and a stronger bottom line.

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SWR Institute and OSHA Alliance Update....

Announcing new OSHA Safety and Health Topics pages: Basic Steel and Concrete and Concrete Products - Manufacturing and Construction

(To access the links, double click on the underscored copy.)

The [Basic Steel Products Safety and Health Topics](#) page was developed as a product of OSHA's Alliances with [The Steel Group](#) (consisting of the American Iron and Steel Institute, Specialty Steel Industry of North America, and Steel Manufacturers Association) and with the [Crane, Hoist and Monorail Manufacturers](#) (consisting of the Crane Manufacturers Association of America, Hoist Manufacturers Institute, and Monorail Manufacturers Association). The page highlights OSHA's standards,

directives and standards interpretations applicable to the steel industry and identifies potential workplace hazards and possible solutions. It also provides additional resources including information on safety and health case studies and OSHA's Alliances related to the steel industry.

The [Concrete and Concrete Products - Manufacturing and Construction Safety and Health Topics](#) page was developed as a product of the [Alliance Program](#) and Strategic Partnership with the [National Ready-Mix Concrete Association](#). The page highlights OSHA standards, compliance directives, and standards interpretations related to manufacturing and construction in the concrete and concrete products industry. It also includes electronic assistance tools and expert

advisors, Spanish language materials, training information, success stories, and additional resources from OSHA and other organizations.

Please share this information with others in your organization as part of our efforts together through the Alliance Program.

