

**THANKS TO ELKHART PRODUCTS CORPORATION
FOR THIS “TOOLBOX SAFETY TALK”**

LADDER SAFETY

OSHA 29 CFR 1910.25, 1910.26, and 1910.27



WELCOME

LADDER SAFETY

Purpose: Ladders present unique opportunities for unsafe acts and unsafe conditions.

Associates who use ladders must be trained in proper selection, inspection, use and storage.

LADDER HAZARDS

Hazards include:

- **Ladders with missing or broken parts.**
- **Using a ladder with too low a weight rating.**
- **Using a ladder that is too short for purpose.**
- **Using metal ladders near energized electrical equipment.**
- **Using ladders as a working platform.**
- **Objects falling from ladders.**

LADDER INSPECTION

Inspect ladders before each use.

- **All rungs and steps are free of oil, grease, dirt, etc.**
- **All fittings are tight.**
- **Spreaders or other locking devices are in place.**
- **Non-skid safety feet are in place.**
- **No structural defects, all support braces intact.**

DO NOT use broken ladders. Have broken ladders tagged “Do Not Use” and removed from service.

LADDER STORAGE

- **Store ladders on sturdy hooks in areas where they cannot be damaged.**
- **Store to prevent warping or sagging.**
- **Do not hang anything on ladders that are in a stored condition.**

LADDER RATINGS

- **I-A 300 pounds (heavy duty)**
- **I 250 pounds (heavy duty)**
- **II 250 pounds (medium duty)**
- **III 200 pounds (light duty)**

LADDER SETUP

Procedure to prevent ladder incidents:

- **Place ladder on a clean slip free level surface.**
- **Extend the ladder 3-4 feet above the top support, if used to access roof or other elevated surface.**
- **Anchor or secure the top of the ladder when the 3-4 foot extension is not possible.**
- **Place the ladder base $\frac{1}{4}$ the height of the ladder from the wall when using a straight ladder.**

LADDER SETUP

continued

- **Never allow more than one person on a ladder.**
- **Use tool belts or hand lines to carry objects.**
- **Do not lean out from the ladder in any direction.**
- **If you have a fear of heights – don't climb a ladder.**
- **Do not allow others to work under a ladder in use.**

LADDER MAINTENANCE

- **Keep ladders clean.**
- **Never replace broken parts unless provided by the original manufacturer.**
- **Do not attempt to repair broken side rails.**
- **Keep all threaded fasteners properly adjusted.**

FIVE RULES OF LADDER SAFETY

- 1. Select the right ladder for the job.**
- 2. Inspect ladder before you use it.**
- 3. Setup the ladder with care.**
- 4. Climb and descend ladders cautiously.**
 - Face ladder and hold on with both hands.
 - Carry tools on belt or raise and lower with hand line.
 - Check shoes and rungs for slippery surfaces.
- 5. Use safe practices when working on a ladder.**
 - Always hold on with one hand and never reach too far to either side or rear to maintain balance.
 - Never climb higher than second step from top on a stepladder or third from the top on a straight ladder.
 - Never attempt to move, shift, or extend ladder while in use.