

TOOLBOX TALK 30/60

DATE:

TOPIC: STRAIGHT LADDERS

OBJECTIVE: TO ENSURE THE SAFE USE OF STRAIGHT LADDERS



Easiest way to conduct and document your safety meetings!

→ Before you talk to your crew about ladder safety, read these tips:

- ☞ Make sure the straight ladder is the proper length. It should extend 36" above area of access.
- ☞ It should be on firm footing.
- ☞ Adjust ladder to proper slope (1 to 4).
- ☞ Ladders should not be painted (painting hides cracks, etc.).
- ☞ Clean dirty, oily and greasy rungs and side rails before climbing.
- ☞ Check conditions of rungs and side rails before climbing.
- ☞ Face the ladder when climbing. Never carry tools or materials up the ladder.
- ☞ Tie the ladder off at the top and cleat at the base.
- ☞ Never overreach when on a ladder. A way to remember this is to keep your belt buckle between the rails at all times (this is known as the belly button rule!).
- ☞ Landings should be provided, if height exceeds 9m.
- ☞ Make sure ladders have toe boards.

→ Job-Made Ladders:

- ☞ Single – and double – cleat ladders should not exceed 60cm in length.
- ☞ Single-cleat ladder width should be at least 40cm, but not more than 51cm. Double-cleat ladders should not be less than 46cm or more than 56cm.
- ☞ Make sure that your stepladder is latched in the best position to perform the work. If you must reach out or bend excessively, stop and reposition the ladder.
- ☞ Inspect stepladders for damage regularly. Cracked steps and uprights or loose or missing parts can result in total collapse of the ladder. If the stepladder is broken it should be removed from service, repaired or destroyed to prevent future use.
- ☞ Do not attempt to repair a broken stepladder! Send it back to the shop!
- ☞ Do not loan company ladders to other contractors.
- ☞ Do not use a metal ladder near electrical conductors.

→ Questions you can use to get them talking:

- ☞ Is the ladder the right type and length for the job?
- ☞ Is the ladder in good physical condition?
- ☞ Is the ladder on the level and tied off?
- ☞ Is the ladder being used properly?

→ Try this for show and tell!

- ☞ Make a crude, incorrect job ladder and ask the crew to tell you why it is unacceptable. or Have someone demonstrate how to climb a properly erected ladder.

