

Falls are the Number 1 Cause of Workplace Fatalities in the Construction Industry!



Ladder Fall Injury (LFI) Facts:

1. LFIs increase with worker age;
2. Self-employed workers have a higher rate of fatal ladder falls than salary/wage workers – 0.30 per 100,000 workers compared with 0.06;
3. Men and Hispanics have higher rates of fatal and nonfatal LFIs compared with women and non-Hispanic persons of other races/ethnicities;
4. Establishments with the fewest employees have the highest fatality rates;
5. Among construction workers, an estimated 81 percent of fall injuries treated in U.S. emergency departments involved a ladder;
6. 43 percent of all fatal falls in the last decade have involved ladders; and
7. In 2011, LFIs resulted in 113 fatalities and 15,460 nonfatal injuries.

Preventing Ladder Falls:

1. Plan the work to reduce or eliminate the need for using ladders by applying safety-in-design and constructability principles to finish as much of the work as possible on the ground;
2. Provide alternative, safer equipment for extended work at elevations, such as aerial lifts, supported scaffolds, or mast climbing work platforms;
3. Provide properly selected and thoroughly inspected ladders that are appropriately matched to employee weight, task, and location;
4. When applicable, provide proper accessories to supplement safe ladder use; and
5. Provide adequate ladder safety information and training for employees.

Additional Resources:

National Safety Stand-Down Web page: <https://www.osha.gov/StopFallsStandDown/index.html>

National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health smartphone app *Ladder Safety* (<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/falls>), provides graphic-oriented, interactive, and easy-to-use reference materials, safety guidelines, and checklists for ladder extension selection, inspection, and use.