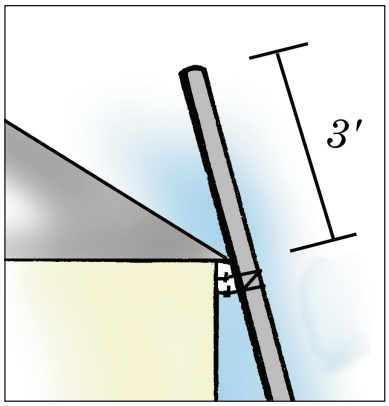
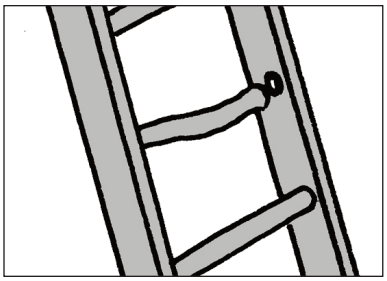
WHAT IS THE MOST DANGEROUS PIECE OF EQUIPMENT ON A CONSTRUCTION SITE?

A Ladder

Each year over 4,000 construction workers are injured and about 70 die falling from ladders. One out of every 18 injuries in construction is from a ladder fall.

Ask these questions before you start to work on a ladder:



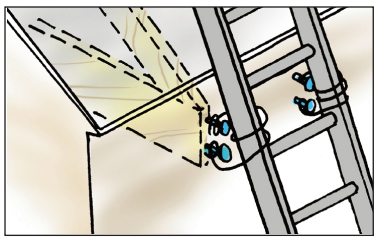


Images: CPWR

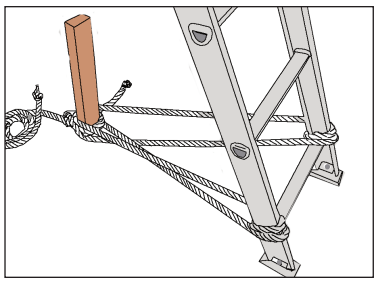
1. Do you really need to use a ladder? Is there a safer way to get up to the work? Consider using a scaffold or aerial lift. Many new small lifts are available.

2. Which ladder should you use? Choosing the right ladder is critical. Make sure extension ladders are long enough to allow three feet at the top to make it safe to get on and off the roof. A ladder which is too short will force you into unsafe situations. A step ladder should never be used in a closed position as an extension ladder.

3. Is your ladder in good condition? Make sure it is not defective, that all the parts are clean and in good working order. If not, tag it "out of order" and remove it so no one else can use it.



4. Is your ladder properly set up? Make sure it is at the right angle, on firm footing, properly secured at the top and bottom and long enough for safe transitions. Ladders which are not secured properly often tip over, killing or injuring workers. Ladders set up near electrical lines can lead to electrocutions.



5. Have you had ladder safety training? Using ladders may seem simple, but you need training on how to use them safely and what can go wrong. Reaching too far while on a ladder and carrying materials up and down are common problems.

Ladder safety just makes sense and can save your life.

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