

TOOL BOX TALKS

Platform Ladder Safety

Did you know that over 100 workplace fatalities occur each year because of ladder accidents? Always remember: **GRAVITY ALWAYS WORKS!** When a person falls from a ladder, they can break arms and legs, receive serious lacerations and hit their head resulting in a brain injury. Many folks think ladders are too simple to worry about safety. Actually, there are many safety points to using ladders – even platform ladders. Take a few moments to review this Tool Box Talk.

WORKSAFE TIPS

PLATFORM LADDER SAFETY RULES

- Users of ladders must get training.
- Inspect ladders before using them – cracks, damage.
- Never use damaged or worn-out ladders.
- Select and use the correct ladder for the job.
- Is the platform ladder tall enough for you to reach safely?
- Never overload platform ladders.
- Beware pinch points on folding ladders: OUCH!
- Watch your step! You could step down and injure an ankle or fall to the ground.
- Read the owner's manual and know all safety points.

COMMON CAUSES OF PLATFORM LADDER ACCIDENT

- Over-reaching – causing the ladder to tip over;
- Overloading know the load rating for the ladder;
- Improper or unstable base;
- Climbing one-handed;
- Ladder hopping;
- Carrying too much up the ladder.

CLIMBING THE PLATFORM LADDER

- Verify ladder capacity – do not overload.
- Set up on a stable base.
- Locking spreader bars must be extended and locked.
- Use three-point climbing contact.
- Don't carry too much up the ladder.
- Keep your "belt buckle" inside the side rails.
- Don't climb too quickly – take it slow.
- Watch your footing.
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PLATFORM LADDERS MUST BE USED IN THE SAME MANNER AS OTHER LADDERS.

**UNSAFE! USE
THE RIGHT
LADDER!**

**LADDER FALLS
CAUSE SERIOUS
INJURIES AND
DEATH!**



**CHECK LADDERS
PRIOR TO USE**



**UNSAFE! KEEP
3-POINTS OF
CONTACT WITH
THE LADDER.**

**CAN THIS
WORKER EASILY
FALL? YES!**



Tool Box Talk

Date of Discussion _____

Instructor _____

Attendees:

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Follow-up Items

These advisory materials have been developed from national standards and sources believed to be reliable, however, no guarantee is made as to the sufficiency of the information contained in the material and Missouri Employers Mutual Insurance Company assumes no liability for its use. Advice about specific situations should be obtained from a safety professional.

