

MAKROSAFE Holdings (Pty) Ltd

SAFETY ALERT!

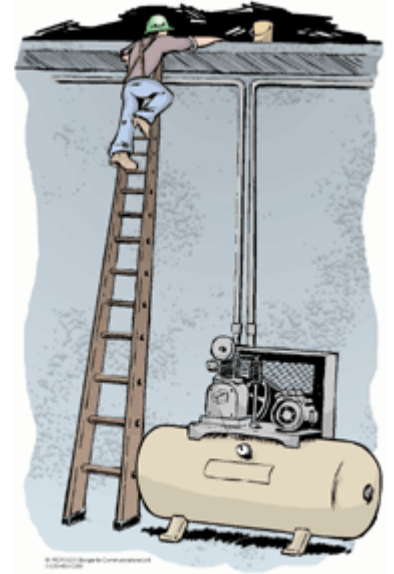
Using a Ladder

The purpose of this safety alert is to highlight the dangers associated with using a ladder and suggest possible control measures to assist industry to manage the risk.

Background

Stepladder safety has become a major concern over recent years as employees have received serious injuries in falls, some of which have resulted in prolonged health problems and, in the worst case, a fatality.

A person using a stepladder to gain access/egress to a 2 metre-high working platform was injured when the ladder collapsed. The accident occurred when he was descending from the platform onto the top of the ladder. Head and arm injuries resulted from the fall onto a concrete floor.



Contributing factors

- ✓ The step ladder was not secured to prevent movement.
- ✓ The ladder was at maximum reach.

Action Required

- ✓ **Never** attempt to work from the top two treads of a stepladder.
- ✓ **Always** face the stepladder treads when using a stepladder.
- ✓ **Never** attempt to use a stepladder with a single stay, or a temporary stay. (All stepladders must have rigid stays in place when in use.)
- ✓ **Never** use a stepladder for access or egress into another workspace.
- ✓ **Never** lean to one side or overreach while using a stepladder.
- ✓ **Never** use a stepladder as a support for a working platform as they are too unstable.
- ✓ **Always** visually inspect a ladder before each use.
- ✓ **Always** place a stepladder on a flat surface and firm ground.
- ✓ **Do not** place a stepladder on boxes or scaffolds to gain extra height.
- ✓ **Always** take care when positioning a stepladder in corridors or driveways where it could be hit by a person or vehicle.
- ✓ **Set up** suitable barriers around stepladders where necessary.