

KCA TOOL BOX TALK: Falls: Extension Ladders

DATE: July 3, 2017

Each year, about 50 construction workers are killed by falls from ladders. The main cause is falling from an extension ladder. The falls are frequently caused by either the slippage or movement of the supports or by workers losing their balance.

Here is an Example: Raul was descending a 24-foot extension ladder from an overhead area when the ladder slipped causing a fall of approximately 12 feet to the concrete surface. Raul suffered head injuries, broke his hand, and was taken to a hospital.

1. Do you use extension ladders?
2. Have you ever fallen or do you know anyone who has fallen from an extension ladder? If so, what happened?
3. Do you know that NIOSH has a free smart phone app for checking that a ladder is at the right angle?

Prevent Falls from Extension Ladders:

- Use a ladder in the manner that it is supposed to be used.
- Set your ladder at the correct 4 to 1 angle. For every four rungs, place the ladder back a foot. As a check, with your feet on the feet of the ladder and your arms extended straight forward, you should just be touching a rung of the ladder.
- Screw a 2x4 cleat to the ground behind the ladder's feet to prevent the ladder from slipping backward.
- Tie off the top of the ladder to prevent it from slipping sideways.
- Extend the ladder three feet above the landing.

For more information visit OSHA REGULATIONS: 1926.1053



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Signatures

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Teamwork Improves Safety!

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