

Portable Ladder Safety

Presented by:

*Steve Caldwell
WHS Advisor (NTA)*



Introduction

- 1) Why ladder safety is important?
- 2) Ladder Accident statistics
- 3) What makes ladders unsafe?
- 4) How can we make it safer?
- 5) So what can I do?



1) Why is ladder safety important?

- Ladders are commonly used in the workplace.
- Most people are not trained in ladder safety.
- Everyone is only one step away from a ladder accident.
- If its not you, it may be a contractor you are responsible for.
- Ladder accidents are more common than you think.
- Let's look at a ladder safety statistics prepared by Safe Work Australia.

Remember these are only the ones that are reported.

2) Ladder accident statistics

Safe Work Australia conducted extensive study of injuries resulting from falls from height.

2003 – 2011

37 people died from falling off a ladder during this period.

6 climbing, 4 over-balancing, 3 medical event, 3 ladder moved, 1 ladder collapsed, 1 struck by tree

2 of these deaths was from less than 1 metre

2009 – 2011

there were **3,830** serious claims requiring time off work for 1 week or more.

This equates to **3** serious injuries every day over this period.

3) What makes ladders unsafe?

- Working at height – risk of fall
- Uneven ground & potential instability of ladder
- Using wrong ladder for the task
 - Nothing to grip onto
 - Too small
 - Over-reaching
 - Task may require pulling or pushing
- Unattended ladders in public areas – no solid barriers
- Ladder collapse or slip
- Anyone can use one – no licence or training often

4) How can we make it safer?

Whether you are a ladder user or responsible for people who use ladders you need to:

Plan ahead and

- **Identify need to use ladder** - is it most appropriate method?
- **Conduct a risk assessment** – based on task to be done and conditions
- **Select a ladder suitable for the task** – use check list
- **Set up ladder safely** – orientation, surface, support
- **Use ladder safely**

4) How can we make it safer?

Risk assessment checklist can be used to determine if ladder is adequate for task.

No.	Description	Yes	No
1	Three points of contact at all times during access & egress.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2	Is ground level & suitable for ladder use.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3	Never climb higher than the third rung from the top of the ladder.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4	Limit the climb to allow for a secure hold while working from ladder ie worker can grasp the ladder near waist height.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5	Task allows body to work between stiles.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6	Ladder to be placed that permits the worker to face towards the ladder.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7	Task can be done without leaning over the side of ladder.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8	Task does not require excessive pulling or pushing.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9	Ladder rating & type to suit task eg; electrical work.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

- Always use solid barriers in public areas

SAFETY BULLETIN



No. 05/2014

Date: 31 October 2014

Subject: **Ladder Safety – Airport Public Areas**

This bulletin is issued as a reminder to all airport staff and contractors of the minimum safety requirements for the use of ladders in the airport precinct. Falls from ladders is one of the highest causes of workplace accidents worldwide. The risk of falling is always high however when working in an airport environment, the risk of an accident is increased due to the uncontrolled exposure of the work area to members of the public. This can create a hazard not only for the end user but also for the general public and in particular children.

For this reason a **solid barrier** must be used when working in any public space in the airport precinct. All ladder works in the public areas in the Terminal should always be conducted in non-peak periods in consultation with the Airport Duty Manager. If works are conducted during busy periods a **spotter** must be used.



Acceptable – solid barrier



Unacceptable – inadequate barrier

In addition the type of ladder selected for the task must be adequate to suit height, orientation, material, capacity and the work being undertaken. A **simple risk assessment** can be undertaken to determine whether the ladder you are using is suitable for the task and this is attached to the reverse side of this bulletin.

Action:

Any staff member or contractor not complying with this bulletin will be asked to stop work immediately and rectify the situation and a warning issued for not complying with minimum safety standards. All staff and contractors need to be vigilant and report or take action to ensure these safety standards are maintained at our airport at all times.

Think Safety, Act Safely

Issued: *Steve Caldwell* – WHS Advisor
NT Airports

5) What can I do?

- Be vigilant when using ladders.
- Ensure you or staff or contractors are following these simple guidelines.
- Stop work if incorrect ladder is being used.
- Ensure staff or contractors plan ahead and get the correct ladder for the job before they start the work.
- Working above 2 metres is a high risk construction activity & needs a Safe Work Method Statement to be completed.
- If it is a simple ladder access job completing the Risk Assessment (ladder selection) may be all you need.

Be proactive - Don't be a statistic!
Use ladders safely

Thank You

Any questions?

