

SAFETY ALERT

LADDER SAFETY

Risk Control Measures

- If you must use a ladder, before you start work:
- Conduct hazard identification and risk assessment;
- Install a barricade or warning signs if there is a potential hazard to people near the work area;
- Ensure that the ladder has an angle or pitch of about 1:4 (one out and four up);
- Ensure that the ladder extends at least one metre above the landing;
- Ensure that the ladder is installed on a stable surface;
- Secure the top and bottom of the ladder so it cannot shift position;
- Ensure that a non-conductive, insulated ladder is used for electrical work or near electrical hazards;
- Ensure that the ladder will not be used in a manner that endangers any person;
- Check any older steel-tubing ladders for suitability **to the task**.

Reference – Safe Work SA – WHS, Hazardous

Portable Ladder Safety

TAPS has had 3 incidents involving portable ladders in the past month. Falls from ladders can result in serious injury. It is important to note that employers, including host employers and those who they place in control of their workers, including apprentices and trainees, have a responsibility to ensure the safety of workers whilst under their supervision. This includes the provision of appropriate and ongoing information, instruction, training and supervision.

Ladders should only be used if there is no other reasonably practicable alternative, such as scaffolding or an elevating work platform. There are many different types of ladders and it is important that consideration is given to which ladder is the most suitable for the job.

Step or trestle ladders

Step or trestle ladders should only be used in the fully open position. A rigid metal spreader or locking device must be used and the load must be carried by the front stiles.



Working on a Ladder

Only one person should be on a ladder at any given time. When ascending or descending a ladder, maintain three points of contact e.g. two feet and one hand, or two hands and one foot, must be in contact with the ladder at all times.

Always climb and descend facing the ladder.

Don't carry anything when climbing or descending.

Keep your body centred between the sides of the ladder. Don't lean sideways or over-reach.

Do not stand above the tread or rung on the ladder indicated as the maximum safe working height.

Only conduct light work from a ladder.

If the ladder is placed near a doorway, the door should be locked open or closed.

Remember to:

STOP-THINK-DO

Need More Information:

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