

SAFETY FOCUS

LADDER SAFETY

Ladders are an essential tool used in support of the day-to-day operations of the University. Unfortunately, falls from portable ladders (step, straight, combination and extension) are one of the leading causes of occupational fatalities and injuries – OSHA estimates that falls from ladders account for 20 percent of all fatal and lost work-day injuries in general industry. Training and education is essential to ensure the safe use of ladders on campus.

WHO: Each University employee must be trained in the tasks, situations, and tools they will use on the job. Workers who use ladders as part of their job are required to be trained and retrained as necessary about safe ladder use. Supervisors of workers who use ladders are responsible for ensuring their workers are properly trained and that the training is documented.

WHAT: Falls from heights and on the same level (a working surface) are among the leading causes of serious work-related injuries and deaths.

OSHA estimates that, on average, approximately 202,066 serious (lost-workday) injuries and 345 fatalities occur annually among workers from falls, with 20% being associated with ladder use.

To comply with workplace safety requirements and ensure a safe work environment, employees must know how to choose, inspect, climb, and work from a ladder safely. A qualified person must train workers to correctly identify and minimize fall hazards, use personal fall protection systems when necessary, and maintain, inspect, and store ladders and equipment used for fall protection.

WHEN: Employees must receive proper training before using ladders as part of their job



duties. Employee orientation should include ladder safety training if ladders are present in the workplace. Retraining is required after workplace changes that affect the relevance of past training, after standards change or are updated, and when an employee(s) demonstrate inadequacy in safety practices. Documentation of training and retraining is essential and the responsibility of supervisors.

HOW: Ladder Training Resources.

EHS Training on Bridge:

Ladder Safety: <https://utah.bridgeapp.com/learner/courses/00444d8b/enroll>

Fall Protection: <https://utah.bridgeapp.com/learner/courses/54e529de/enroll>

OSHA Resources:

<https://www.osha.gov/publications/bytopic/ladder-safety>

https://www.osha.gov/sites/default/files/publications/portable_ladder_qc.pdf

