



CompWest Loss Lessons: Ladder Accident

True Story

An employee was utilizing an A-frame ladder when he lost balance and fell backwards. He hit his back on the door frame and then landed on his toolbelt.

Lessons Learned

- Ensure clutter is cleared from the work area
- Never place a ladder on an uneven surface
- Train employees on ladder safety

Prevention Tips

- Keep job sites clean of debris and other potential slip, trip and fall hazards
- Employees should be trained in proper ladder use/setup

- To prevent impalement, place tools tip down in the tool belt or remove the belt entirely
- Place ladder away from path of travel and away from door frames
- Always start on a solid, level surface
- Use the right ladder for each job and handle properly
- Conduct ladder safety inspections before each use
- Regularly train employees to be aware of work material left around the ladder area and how to safely get on and off a ladder

Additional Resources

- [CompWest Resource Library - Ladder Safety](#)
- [Cal/OSHA Portable Ladder Safety - General](#)
- [Cal/OSHA Portable Ladder Safety](#)

The advice presented in this document is intended as general information for employers. For further information, please contact your CompWest loss control consultant.

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