

Framer Falls 8 Feet from Extension Ladder

INCIDENT FACTS

REPORT #: 71-212-2021s

REPORT DATE: December 3, 2021

INCIDENT DATE: June 4, 2021

VICTIM: 34 years old

INDUSTRY: Framing contractors

OCCUPATION: Framer

SCENE: New house construction site

EVENT TYPE: Fall from ladder



A 34-year-old framer was seriously injured after falling eight feet from an extension ladder.

The framer worked for a framing contractor. The contractor had employed him for the past two years.

On the day of the incident, the framer was working at the site of a new construction one-story house.

Prior to the incident, the framer was setting up to nail a piece of plywood sheeting to a gable of the house.

He positioned a 24-foot fiberglass extension ladder against the side of the house. The base of the ladder was resting on soft, uneven dirt.

He began climbing up the ladder with the intention of securing the ladder to the house's top frame. As he was climbing the ladder, it shifted to the left and he fell eight feet to the ground.

INJURY NARRATIVE

After his fall, the framer experienced numerous serious injuries that kept him from working for several months.

INJURY NARRATIVE



Photo 1. Side of house where framer placed an extension ladder on soft, uneven dirt. As he was climbing, it shifted and he fell eight feet.



Photo 2. Soft, uneven dirt where the framer placed the base of the extension ladder.



Photo 3. Plywood sheeting that framer was intending to place on the house gable.

Requirements

You must place the ladder either:

- (a) With a secure footing on a firm, level support surface; or
- (b) Secure the ladder to prevent accidental displacement.

See [WAC 296-876-40015\(1\)](#)

Requirements

You must make sure no employee carries any object or load that could cause the employee to lose balance and fall while climbing up or down the ladder.

See [WAC 296-876-40025\(6\)](#)

Recommendations

- Survey the worksite to assess the risks of working at height with ladders.
- Choose and provide employees with safer methods and equipment to work at heights, such as a scaffold or aerial lift.
- Train employees to use these methods and equipment.

Recommendations

- Re-check for stability and levelness while climbing the first few ladder rungs.
- Tie off the top of the ladder, and the bottom if possible, to prevent it from slipping sideways.
- Consider using ladder feet spikes to prevent the ladder base from slipping when placed on grass or dirt.
- Do not carry construction materials while climbing a ladder. Use a hoist to bring materials to a higher elevation.

Resources

Use the NIOSH Ladder Safety app to check the placement of your ladder.

www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/falls/mobileapp.html

This bulletin was developed to alert employers and employees of a serious traumatic injury of a worker in Washington State and is based on preliminary data ONLY and does not represent final determinations regarding the nature of the incident or conclusions regarding the cause of the injury.

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