

INCIDENT FACTS

REPORT #:

71-212-2021

REPORT DATE:

December 3, 2021

INCIDENT DATE:

June 4, 2021

WORKER:

34 years old

INDUSTRY:

Framing contractors

OCCUPATION:

Framer

SCENE:

New house construction site

EVENT TYPE:

Fall from ladder



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

[For a slideshow version, click here.](#)



This narrative is an alert about the serious traumatic injury of a worker and is based on preliminary data ONLY and does not represent final determinations regarding the nature of the incident or the cause of the injury. Developed by WA State Fatality Assessment and Control Evaluation (FACE) Program and the Division of Occupational Safety and Health (DOSH), WA State Dept. of Labor & Industries. The FACE Program is supported in part by a grant from the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH grant# 5U60OH008487). For more information visit www.lni.wa.gov/safety-health/safety-research/ongoing-projects/work-related-fatalities-face.

Framer Falls 8 Feet from Extension Ladder

SUMMARY

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 sheathing 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.

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

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\(1\)](#)
- 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

FACE investigators concluded that, to help prevent similar occurrences:

- 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.

When using ladders:

- 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



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