

## Slipped ladder caused worker to fall

On 24 December 2021, a worker fell about 1.7 metres to the floor when the A-frame ladder he was on slipped. The ladder was leaning against the edge of a mezzanine level and was not secured. The worker struck his head against the floor and succumbed to his injuries three days later.



Figure 1: Position of the worker on the ladder just before he fell.

## Recommendations

A-frame ladders are not designed for use as leaning ladders. To prevent similar accidents, consider the following measures:

- **Select the right ladder**
  - Do not use an A-frame ladder as a leaning ladder. When using an A-frame ladder, ensure it is placed on stable and flat ground and that it is fully opened with spreaders locked.
  - Consider using a step platform (see Figure 2) to work at a higher level. Platform ladders will allow workers to work safely for more complex tasks (e.g. transfer of goods) and for longer durations.



Figure 2: Step Platform

- **Safe access to another level**

- Do not use A-frame ladders for access to another level. A leaning ladder or suitable access platform may be used instead.
- Leaning ladders used to access another level should be tied and extended at least one metre above the landing point to provide a secure handhold (see Figure 3).
- Secure the base of the ladder (see Figure 4) to prevent ladder slippage.
- Install guard railings on the level being accessed to prevent falls from that level.

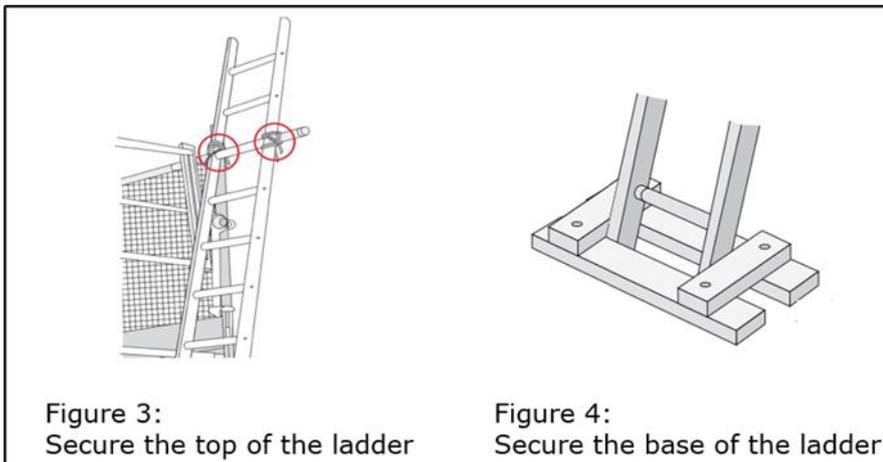


Figure 3:  
Secure the top of the ladder

Figure 4:  
Secure the base of the ladder

- **Personal protection**

- Equip workers with a safety helmet to protect against head injuries.

For more information, refer to WSH (Work at Heights) Regulations 2013, WSH Council's Code of Practice for Working Safely at Heights, and WSH Council's Ladder Safety Pack.

\* Information on the accident is based on preliminary investigations by the Ministry of Manpower as at 6 January 2022. This may be subject to change as investigations are still on-going. Please also note that the recommendations provided here are not exhaustive and they are meant to enhance workplace safety and health so that a recurrence may be prevented. The information and recommendations provided are

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