



COMMON FINDS: LADDER SAFETY

BACKGROUND:

No matter the municipality, it always seems like the tools we need to do our job are just out of reach. While stepstools and ladders are great tools for bridging the gap, they can also lead to accidents and injuries if not stored and maintained correctly. CIRMA's Risk Management team often finds that slips, trips, and falls from elevated surfaces, such as ladders and stools, are causes for some of the most frequent types of workers' compensation claims.

OBSERVATION:

The ladder was staged against the wall and not secured via a hook, latch, chain, etc.

RECOMMENDATION:

Ensure that ladders are appropriately secured to the wall while in storage to prevent tipping or displacement, per **OSHA 29 CFR 1910.23(c)(7)**. "Ensure ladders placed in locations such as passageways, doorways, or driveways where they can be displaced by other activities or traffic are secured to prevent accidental displacement; or are guarded by a temporary barricade, such as a row of traffic cones or caution tape, to keep the activities or traffic away from the ladder."

ADDITIONAL TIPS:

- Use a ladder that is appropriate for the job you're doing
- Check ladders and stools for wear and tear before using them
- Train employees not to use the very top rung or capped portion of the ladder as a step
- Consider how much weight the ladder needs to hold, including the weight of any materials or equipment
- Store the ladder in a dedicated place away from walking-working surfaces

visit [CIRMA.org](https://www.cirma.org) to learn more



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