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Why Ladder Safety Training Should Be Mandatory for Your Employees

By the American Ladder Institute

It is a call no business owner wants to receive: An employee fell from a ladder while on the job and is on the way to the hospital.

Ladder-related injuries and accidents are all too common. Fall protection repeatedly ranks at the top of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration's (OSHA) Top 10 most cited violations, and more than 700 ladder injuries happen each day.

As a company owner, recognizing the hazard ladders present in the workplace is critical to protecting the health of your employees and your business. But you can't stop there. Owners need to equip their teams with the education

and resources they need to do their jobs safely. After all, most ladder accidents are preventable.

To arm your organization's workforce with the information they need to work safely and effectively, the American Ladder Institute (ALI) created a free Ladder Safety Training program and National Ladder Safety Month to inspire safer ladder use and reduce the rate of injuries. These programs will not cost you a dime, but they will be among the greatest investments you will make in the people who keep your business running.

Recognize the Risk Posed by Incorrect Ladder Use

Ladders are an essential and ubiquitous piece of equipment for trade professionals and homeowners all over the world, leading many to underestimate the dangers they pose.

Ladder accidents are serious. More than 100 people die from ladder-related injuries each year. Thousands of others suffer with crippling pain and disability that prevents them from working or enjoying

their daily activities.

If an employee falls from a ladder while on the job, it affects the business owner and organization in several ways.

First, the rest of your work force may begin to question their own safety at work. This leads to low morale, and it may eventually harm your company culture.

Second, the business owner may be financially liable for the worker's injuries. Each case is unique — and different parties may be liable based on the specific situation — but if the cause of the accident was linked to you providing faulty ladders and/or not properly training your workforce on how to safely do their job, you may be found financially responsible. Depending on the seriousness of the ladder injury, this may be costly enough to threaten the future of your business.

Can company owners prevent these worst-case scenarios from happening? While some ladder accidents are out of anyone's control, most are preventable. Getting employees engaged about safe ladder practices will reduce their risk of injury—and ALI's Ladder Safety Training and National Ladder Safety Month are two great tools to achieve that goal.

Resources to Reduce Fall Risk: Certification and National Ladder Safety Month

Requiring that your employees receive ladder safety certification ensures that your workforce has the most up-to-date safety information. ALI offers an

A graphic for National Ladder Safety Month. It features a dark blue background with a silhouette of a person on a ladder. The text is white and green. At the top left is a logo with a ladder inside a circle. Below it, the text reads "NATIONAL LADDER SAFETY MONTH" and "MARCH 2019". A paragraph states: "Every year, more than 300 people die in ladder-related accidents, with thousands more suffering disabling injuries." Another paragraph says: "Help spread ladder safety awareness and participate in National Ladder Safety Month this March." At the bottom, it says "Learn more at www.LadderSafetyMonth.com." and includes social media icons for Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, and LinkedIn, along with the hashtag "#LadderSafetyMonth".

online certification program — the Ladder Safety Training — aimed at promoting safe ladder use, selection and care.

The Ladder Safety Training is a 100% free educational offering from ALI, so you can require all employees undergo the program without any training cost implications.

The training is appropriate for both professionals and homeowners, and it teaches participants how to safely use and care for different types of ladders, including:

- Stepladders
- Single and extension ladders
- Articulated ladders
- Mobile ladders

Participants who complete the Ladder Safety Training program will receive a certificate of completion, and company owners will have the assurance that their employees are receiving the most current and reputable ladder safety

information.

The more employees know about ladder safety, the more likely they will be to use safe practices on the job to mitigate their injury risk. ALI's Ladder Safety Training is offered year-round for training when you need it.

Another initiative — National Ladder Safety Month — is a special annual event that emphasizes getting people engaged about safe ladder use. This is a great time to brush up on ladder safety education.

ALI has created special shareable resources that company owners and employees can use to promote safer ladder behaviors throughout National Ladder Safety Month and beyond, including training videos, posters and infographics.

While company owners cannot be at every jobsite all the time, they can provide their employees the tools they

5 Most Common Ladder Mistakes People Make

1. Ladder is not the right size for the job
2. Ladder is not on level ground
3. Lack of three points of contact
4. Overreaching while on the ladder
5. Missing the last step of the ladder when climbing down

need to work safely anywhere, anytime. Through the Ladder Safety Training and National Ladder Safety Month, ALI makes it easy for your employees to work safer and smarter.

Learn more about the American Ladder Institute at www.americanladderinstitute.org.



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"I wanted to write in and tell you how much I appreciate the quality of your products. We inspect approximately 20 to 30 chimneys every week and we run into every product there is on the market. I can tell you with absolute certainty that your FireGuard and Guardian products have no equals. I can say this because I've tried the other products and had to deal with many call backs due to cracks and failures as well as the complications involved with the installation. FireGuard and Guardian are simple to install and we do not get call backs. I've been using your products since 2005 and it is always a pleasure to inspect a chimney we repaired years ago and see that it still looks as good as it did the day we fixed it with your products. Thank you Jay!"

Dave Laverdiere - Owner of Boston Brick & Stone - Pasadena California

For additional information or to order products, call 800-545-6607

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