

STRUCK-BY LADDER FALL INCIDENT

Safety Topic V6-0775

Incidents, Ladders



DROPPED OBJECT STRIKES WORKER ON LADDER

While standing on a 10-foot step ladder, an asbestos remover was struck by a piece of metal pipe that dropped from a work area above. The metal pipe, being used by another worker in a platform lift, dropped 22 feet, hitting the worker and his ladder, causing him to fall. No one on the crew was wearing hard hats.

After falling 8 feet to the concrete floor below, the injured worker was transported to a nearby local hospital where he was pronounced dead.

- When overhead work is happening at the job site, workers below must be protected from falling objects, tools, and debris.
- Safety nets, canopies, and/or toeboards can be erected to prevent objects from falling from overhead operations to the ground level work site.
- When possible, workers should not be in the hazard area underneath overhead work.
- Workers should always wear hard hats when work is being performed overhead, or there is any risk of falling objects in the area.



The pipe that fell was 5' 8" long, 3" in diameter, and weighed 12-15 lbs.



The 10-foot step ladder the worker was standing on.

Discussion

Images: Nebraska Case Report 06NE002

What actions could have possibly prevented this tragic incident?

What are the best ways to prevent dropped object injuries and near misses?