



Safety Message of the Day for IMEA Members



LADDER SAFETY

According to OSHA, falls from portable ladders are one of the leading causes of occupational fatalities and injuries.

OSHA Standard 1910.23(b)(9) states that the employer must ensure that ladders are inspected before initial use in each work shift, and more frequently as necessary, to identify any visible defects that could cause employee injury.

Remember these important safety precautions when working with ladders:

- Always visually inspect all step ladders before use for any defects such as: missing/broken rungs, bolts, cleats, screws and loose components. Remove defective ladders from service immediately.
- Use the right ladder for the job!
- Always read the ladders warning labels and follow the manufacturer's recommendations for use.
- Only use a ladder that is rated to support the weight of your body and your tools/equipment.
- Make certain that the ladder is not loaded beyond the maximum intended load.
- Never use one side of a disassembled step ladder as an extension ladder.
- Never attempt to repair a ladder! Do not use wire, screws, bolts, duct tape or electrical tape as a way to fix the ladder; instead tag it and remove it from service.
- Never stand on the top rung or step of the step ladder. This makes the ladder very unstable and prone to tip over!
- Never face away from the step ladder! This can easily cause you to fall!
- Never overreach on a step ladder!
- Do not move or shift a ladder while a person or equipment is on the ladder. This could cause the materials or person to fall and cause serious injury.