



# Toolbox Talks

## Inspecting Ladders



According to a research study by the National Institutes for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) it was found that ladders are involved in 20 percent of fall injuries among workers and 81 percent of construction worker fall injuries.

The inspection of a ladder is a very important step to avoid serious or even deadly injuries. OSHA requires that employers ensure ladders are inspected on a periodic basis. However, even with periodic inspections it is still part of every worker's job to be sure that the ladder they are about to use is in safe working order.

***OSHA Standard 1926.1053(b)(15) Ladders shall be inspected by a competent person for visible defects on a periodic basis and after any occurrence that could affect their safe use.***

### **LADDER INSPECTIONS PREVENT INJURIES!**

- Always visually inspect ladder feet to ensure that foot pads and feet assembly are present and in safe condition.
- Never attempt to repair a ladder! Contact the manufacturer or other qualified person to make the repair.
- Inspect top cap, steps, side rails, & locking braces on a step ladder before using.
- Inspect the rungs, rails, lock (dawgs), rope, and pulley assembly of an extension ladder and be sure that all parts work properly.
- Check for mud, grease, or dirt to avoid potential slip/fall hazards.
- Follow manufacturer's recommendations for proper inspection and use.
- Remove any ladder from service that is found to be defective!

