

## Fall Risks and Ladders

CAMs #368371

### 1. Incident

Over the last year or so our industry has had three very serious incidents where people have been injured or killed while working from ladders.

In our own business, a Fulton Hogan worker was on a ladder unhooking a sling from a 1.5m high water tank, while someone else held the foot of the ladder. The tank the ladder was leaning against moved and the ladder slipped. The worker jumped to the ground, landed awkwardly, and suffered a very nasty compound leg fracture with the broken bits of the bone poking through the skin.

In the second case, unrelated to Fulton Hogan, a worker has fallen from a ladder while taking measurements inside a room with a ceiling height of 3.5m. Tragically this person died as a result of their injuries.

In the third case, a worker fell from a ladder while repairing a broken street light and passed away.

These incidents all highlight just how serious a fall from any height can be.



*Where a fall from one level to a lower level is possible and it's reasonable to think that someone could get hurt then, controls must be implemented*

### 2. Contributing Factors

A review of our practices suggests:

- We sometimes use ladders (especially straight or step ladders) where other equipment might be a safer option. Remember, ladders are for short duration tasks only.
- Standards of operator training and competency vary.
- The risks associated with falls are often underestimated.
- Some of our ladders are older and may no longer be in good condition.

### 3. What's been done

A KnowHow document setting out our minimum requirements for ladder use has been reviewed, and a PowerPoint "Working at Height Awareness" presentation has been prepared.

## 4. Requirements

Those parts of the business who have people exposed to the risk of a fall and (or) who use free standing ladders are asked to please:

- a. Inspect all ladders and scrap any that are in poor or an unsafe condition
- b. List out the situations where ladders are being used and, where practical, change your work methods and replace these ladders with safer alternatives for example:



Platform Ladders



Mobile Scaffold

- c. Remind all staff who work from ladders that:
  - Ladders are for short duration work only
  - Three points of contact must be maintained at all times
  - If a ladder is used it must be secured against movement and if this is not possible someone must hold it.
  - Where practical a safer alternative (i.e. platform ladder or mobile scaffold) must be used

- d. Take those staff who occasionally work from ladders, through the KnowHow video and picture document that you'll find on the KnowHow site at you next tailgate meeting. *(Scan or click QR code)*



In addition, please take those staff who routinely work from ladders, through the attached PowerPoint "Working at Height Awareness" presentation and record this in PDP using the WAHA code. *(Scan or Click QR code)*



- e. Please send a copy of this Red Alert to any Subbies engaged to complete work that may require the use of ladders.

## 5. Revision History

Date	Author	Brief Description of Change
27/05/2022	D Davenport	1 <sup>st</sup> Draft
09/12/2022	T Talbot	2 <sup>nd</sup> Draft
26/01/2023	J Curtis	Final Document

## 6. Closeout Requirements

Please discuss this Red Alert with your teams, complete the items below and return to your Safety Manager. They will collate all responses for the business unit and send a single confirmation to the HSQES Analyst at [nzincident@fultonhogan.com](mailto:nzincident@fultonhogan.com) before 30 April 2023.

6.1. What date was this Red Alert communicated to the workplace: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/20\_\_

6.2. Could this incident occur in your Region/Project? (Circle your answer below)

- YES**      If Yes, please answer questions 6.3 & 6.4
- NO**        If No, please answer question 6.5

6.3. Have all the actions and recommendations been implemented? (Circle your answer below)

- YES**      If Yes, please answer question 6.4
- NO**        If No, please answer question 6.5

6.4. Are these measures sufficient to eliminate or reduce the risk of an incident (or similar) described in the alert from happening again? (Circle your answer below)

**YES or No**

If No, please raise a CAM's case listing the required actions and accountabilities to be taken in order to eliminate or reduce the risk. Record the CAM's number below:

**CAMs Case Number:** CAMs-\_\_\_\_\_

6.5. Please note the reasons why this incident could not occur within your region / project?

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In signing this document, I confirm that the actions above have been completed in this region/project.

Region / Project: \_\_\_\_\_

Region / Project Manager Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_