

Ladder-Related Incidents

OR-OSHA Reports [2007 - 2009]

- 11/30/09
FATAL The 40 year-old employee was using an eight foot stepladder to nail a strap onto the exterior wall of a residential home under construction. Using a nail gun in his right hand, he leaned over to the left and tried to place a nail into the strap. The nail ricocheted and **struck him** on the left side of his head just above the left ear and he **fell** to the ground below. Shortly after searching for help, he passed out. The employee died two days later. *Reported by Salem office*
- 11/30/09 The 33 year-old employee was trying to install a fascia board from an extension ladder. The ladder began to **slide** down the wall and the employee **jumped** to the ground breaking his right ankle. *Reported by Bend office*
- 11/9/09 The 58 year-old employee was descending a ladder and **fell** between two unprotected rafters and through a ½ inch thick sheetrock ceiling. The employee fell 13 feet to a lower level and sustained broken facial bones and a laceration to the right knee. *Reported by Portland office*
- 7/14/09 The 27 year-old employee was working from an extension ladder placed on a six foot high scaffold platform. The employee was attempting to nail sheathing approximately 14 feet up the ladder when the **scaffold tipped over**. The employee fell to the concrete and sustained multiple fractures. *Reported by Eugene office*
- 6/13/09 The 63 year-old employee was descending a fixed ladder on an RV when he **missed the last step** and fell approximately four feet to the ground. He struck the back of his head and was rendered unconscious. The employee sustained a cracked skull and a brain contusion, and was hospitalized for three three days. *Reported by Salem office*
- 6/9/09 The 22 year-old employee was descending an extension ladder after cleaning gutters using a backpack leaf blower. He misjudged the bottom rungs and **lost his balance**. The ladder's right siderail lost contact with the wall and he fell and landed on top of the leaf blower. He suffered a dislocated left shoulder. *Reported by Portland office*

- 6/1/09 The 58 year-old employee was climbing an extension ladder placed on scaffolding. The employee **fell** backwards onto the scaffold deck, suffering serious back injuries. *Reported by Medford office*
- 5/28/09 The 33 year-old employee was performing residential repair and **fell** from a ladder when the scaffold failed. The employee fell approximately 18 feet and landed feet first onto a wooden deck resulting in a compression fracture of the L1, L3, and L4 vertebrae. *Reported by Portland office*
- 4/22/09 The 36 year-old employee was stepping from an extension ladder onto a roof when he **slipped** and fell approximately 10 feet to the dirt ground. He landed on his right heel and sustained a fracture. *Reported by Bend office*
- 4/17/09 The 47 year-old employee was assisting another worker remove a work platform inside a large concrete tank. The employee was working from an extension ladder supported by a scaffold underneath the last section of platform. The 28 foot high **scaffold tipped over** as it was not tied to the structure and the employee fell to the ground suffering serious abdominal injuries. *Reported by Eugene office*
- 2/25/09 The 60 year-old employee used a 20 foot extension ladder to gain access to a roof approximately 13 feet 4 inches from ground level. The ladder fell after the employee accessed the roof and a teacher and student reset it. While stepping onto it to leave the roof, the **ladder collapsed** and the employee fell to the pavement below. The employee sustained fractures to the skull and wrists. *Reported by Portland office*
- 1/24/09 The 59 year-old employee was working from an eight foot ladder changing a section of steam pipe. He **fell** from either the fourth or fifth rung and landed on the concrete floor. He sustained an injury to his heel requiring surgery. *Reported by Portland office*
- 1/1/09 Two maintenance employees were responding to a leaky roof. The 59 year-old employee started climbing an access ladder and was approximately ½ way up the ladder when the other worker started up the ladder. The employee **fell** from the ladder (hitting the other worker's shoulder on the way down), suffering serious injuries. *Reported by Salem office*

- 12/30/08 Workers were setting lateral bracing on trusses approximately 16 feet above the ground. Two workers were in a scissor lift and one worker was on a stepladder. All 22 **trusses collapsed and came down** on the workers (no diagonal braces were used). It is unclear if the trusses collapsed from the weight and lack of bracing or if the scissor lift hit a truss causing the collapse. Two workers suffered multiple fractures and were hospitalized. The other worker was discharged suffering only contusions. *Reported by Portland office*
- 8/27/08 The 45 year-old employee was performing painting work and **slipped** off the ladder. He fell backwards from an elevation of approximately six feet and suffered severe back injuries. *Reported by Portland office*
- 8/8/08 The 58 year-old employee was hanging drywall from a 12' stepladder that was partially opened (spreader not locked). The employee was leaning against the wall for leverage and the **ladder slipped** out from under him. He initially hit his head and lost consciousness. The employee sustained a head injury, punctured lung, fractured elbow, and eight fractured ribs. *Reported by Portland office*
- 7/2/08 The 19 year-old employee was picking cherries and fell from an orchard ladder. The investigation revealed it was likely the employee was leaning too far over the side and **tipped the ladder** over. The employee suffered a broken ankle. *Reported by Bend office*
- 5/14/08 The 57 year-old employee was in the process of disconnecting cable service to two residential homes. He pitched and climbed an extension ladder approximately 18 feet to the feeder box. After cutting the second line, the main cable strand supporting his **ladder snapped back** and he **fell** from the ladder to the road surface below. He was rendered unconscious and sustained a traumatic head injury. *Reported by Salem office*
- 3/26/08 The 30 year-old employee was suspending a kite from the ceiling while utilizing an orchard ladder to gain the needed elevation. The **ladder slipped** out from under him and he fell approximately six to 10 feet. He struck his head on the floor causing serious injury and hospitalization. *Reported by Portland office*
- 3/21/08 The 43 year-old employee was servicing an above ground diesel tank on a customer's worksite. The tank was approximately eight feet from the ground and the **ladder slipped** when he attempted to descend it. He suffered a torn ACL in his left knee. *Reported by Portland office*

- 1/10/08 The 37 year-old employee was in the process of climbing a ladder to the roof. The employee reached a platform at the top of the ladder measuring 30 inches x 25 inches. He tried stepping onto the platform carrying a coiled garden hose when he **slipped** from the ladder and fell approximately 17 feet. The employee suffered multiple fractures. *Reported by Salem office*
- 1/8/08
FATAL The 50 year-old employee was in the process of climbing an eight foot stepladder to remove a shipping brace for a stairway. He **fell** backward from the ladder striking his head on the floor. Following the post mortem examination, it was determined that he had a massive heart attack. *Reported by Salem office*
- 10/19/07 The 29 year-old employee was in the process of installing a gutter on a garage using a 32 foot extension ladder. The **ladder slipped** from under him and he fell approximately 19 feet to the concrete driveway. He landed on his head sustaining a fracture. *Reported by Salem office*
- 10/10/07 The 38 year-old employee was routing wire over a HVAC vent using a metal wall support to stabilize himself. The support twisted causing him to **fall** from the ladder. He fell approximately six feet hitting his head on the concrete floor below. He also received a cut to his hand. *Reported by Portland office*
- 9/7/07 The 31 year-old employee was working from a 40 foot ladder performing paint-related work. The employee **lost his balance** and fell approximately 15 to 18 feet to the ground below. *Reported by Portland office*
- 9/6/07 Five employees were installing a sheet rock firewall on an exterior gable end wall of a two-story house. Two employees were on the ground cutting and handing sheet rock to one employee on a scaffold approximately 13 feet above the ground. The employee on the scaffold then handed the sheet rock to two employees on ladders. The ladders were set on the scaffold and leaning against the gable wall, elevating the two workers approximately 23 feet above the ground. The **scaffold tilted** from the outward pressure of the ladders causing all three to **fall** to the ground. They suffered multiple injuries and were hospitalized. *Reported by Bend office*
- 8/29/07 The 55 year-old employee was removing branches from a tree that were hanging down and interfering with drivers' vision in a school parking lot. He leaned an extension ladder against a tree branch approximately 18 feet above the gravel parking lot and proceeded to trim branches using a chainsaw. He cut off two branches and had started cutting a third when the **ladder shifted and fell** with him on it. He was hospitalized with serious injuries requiring surgery. *Reported by Medford office*

- 8/6/07
FATAL The 55 year-old painter **fell** approximately 10 feet **from a platform** while attempting to get on a ladder. The employee landed on his head suffering fatal injuries. *Reported by Portland office*
- 7/3/07
FATAL The 47 year-old employee was working alone painting a house when he **fell** from the ladder to the ground below. There were no witnesses to the fall, however, the home owners heard a loud crash and observed the worker lying on the ground. The employee was subsequently flown to a hospital in Portland but later died on July 12, 2007. *Reported by Medford office*
- 5/31/07 The 40 year-old employee was standing on the second rung of a four foot ladder assisting another worker remove a 7 foot 4 inch high board that was attached to a structure. The employee **lost his balance** and fell to a lower level, suffering multiple fractures. *Reported by Portland office*
- 5/31/07 The 40 year-old employee was assisting another worker remove and replace siding from the second story of a condominium complex. The employee was using a 12 foot stepladder and the other worker was using an extension ladder. While in the process of raising another 4x8 panel of siding into position, something occurred and the panel slid downward out of position. The employee tried to catch the panel but the **stepladder tipped over** and the employee fell to the concrete parking lot and was rendered unconscious. The employee suffered a fractured skull and an ankle injury. This was the employee's first day on the job. *Reported by Eugene office*
- 5/11/07
FATAL The 46 year-old employee was repairing soffits from an established walking surface (above the carport/garage) approximately eight feet, six inches above the concrete below. There was a 34 inch high guardrail surrounding the walking surface area where the employee was working. The employer left to run errands and returned approximately 1½ hours later to find the employee lying near the base of the ladder. The employee suffered fatal head injuries in the fall. *Reported by Medford office*
- 5/4/07
FATAL The 49 year-old employee was placing a bundle of lightweight aluminum gutters on top of a rack. Using an extension ladder, he extended it 13 feet and rested it against a crossbrace approximately seven feet above the ground. When he reached that level, he stepped off the ladder and possibly **pushed on the top of the ladder causing it to come down**. He fell on top of the ladder but got up and went back to work for an hour before he started feeling bad and decided to lay down in his pickup truck. After three hours and checking on him a few times, coworkers found him face down in the parking lot. He died of a blood clot three days later. He had broken his tibia, hip, and three ribs; ruptured his spleen; and had hit his forehead either on the ladder or the asphalt. *Reported by Portland office*

- 4/26/07 The 62 year-old employee climbed a metal extension ladder to check an energized light junction box. As he was descending, he slipped or lost his footing and the **ladder slid** along the wall causing him to fall head first to the road below. His co-worker checked on him and called 911. The employee sustained multiple fractures. *Reported by Medford office*
- 3/19/07 The 20 year-old employee was working from a six foot stepladder nailing a hanger joist. He **fell** from the ladder and suffered a concussion. *Reported by Portland office*
- 2/23/07 **FATAL** The 43 year-old employee was working from a 10 foot stepladder replacing the seal on a semi-trailer's rear door. He **fell** from the ladder and sustained a head injury. He died in the hospital a week later from severe head trauma. *Reported by Portland office*
- 2/14/07 The 50 year-old employee used a 24 foot extension ladder to access the interior roof of an office to clear out a jammed air tube used to transfer money. After performing the task, the employee was descending the ladder when the **ladder feet began to slide out**. The employee rode the ladder to the ground from an elevation of approximately eight feet and sustained a fractured lower right leg. *Reported by Portland office*
- 1/31/07 The 33 year-old employee climbed a 24 foot extension ladder to spray paint the trim of a commercial building. The employee was working at a height of approximately 12 feet when he **fell** off the ladder to a concrete surface. He suffered a fractured hip. *Reported by Portland office*
- 1/20/07 The 49 year-old employee had finished installing a new residential roof and was in the process of cleaning. While descending the ladder he **slipped** and fell onto a wheel barrow that was placed at the base of the ladder. He sustained three fractures to his back. *Reported by Salem office*

Accepted Disabling Claims (Oregon)
Work-Related **Falls**
2005-2009

2009

Total *Fall* Claims: 3874 [Total Claims (All): 18,948]

1. Ladders	310
2. Steps/Stairs	287
3. Non-moving vehicles	234

2008

Total *Fall* Claims: 4190 [Total Claims (All): 21,659]

1. Ladders	369
2. Steps/Stairs	277
3. Non-moving vehicles	258

2007

Total *Fall* Claims: 4494 [Total Claims (All): 23,431]

1. Ladders	462
2. Non-moving vehicles	280
3. Steps/Stairs	275

2006

Total *Fall* Claims: 4369 [Total Claims (All): 23,370]

1. Ladders	423
2. Non-moving vehicles	276
3. Steps/Stairs	274

2005

Total *Fall* Claims: 4153 [Total Claims (All): 22,111]

1. Ladders	403
2. Non-moving vehicles	305
3. Steps/Stairs	260

*Oregon Worker's Compensation Division
Compensable Injury Data
Data compiled by: State of Oregon
DCBS, Information Management Division*

<http://www.cbs.state.or.us/imd/rasums/2055t/09web/table1.pdf>