

Lessons Learned



— MECHANICAL CONTRACTORS —

Date: 10/20/21

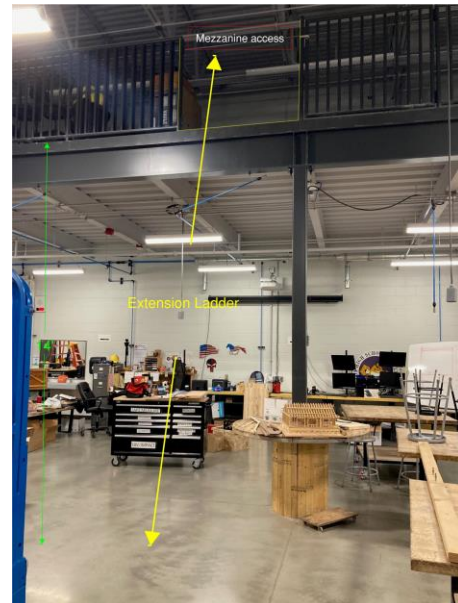
Region: Spokane

Project: Lewiston High School

Incident Title: Ladder slips out, but worker catches fall

Summary

A worker was tasked to perform warranty work on the roof of the high school. To go on the roof, access is gained through an indoor mezzanine which is approximately 14 feet from ground level. An extension ladder was used in this case to gain access to the mezzanine. When the work was complete on the roof the worker then began to descend on the extension ladder, which then started to slip out from beneath. Immediately, the worker grabbed a hold of the mezzanine guardrail through the ladder preventing the fall to the ground below. However, the weight of the worker and the ladder rested on the workers foreman until a school staff member was able to render to the workers aid and hold the ladder from below to allow the worker to safely get off the ladder. Worker suffered a muscle contusion to the foreman. No major injuries noted at this time.



What Went Right?

- Employee reported it immediately.
- Ladder extended 3 feet above the landing surface

What Went Wrong?

- Extension ladder was not properly secured
- Ladder was not inspected prior to use
- Polished concrete floor was not identified prior to ladder placement

Lessons Learned

- Inspect ladder prior to use
- Know the surface the ladder is being placed on, ladders shall not be used on slippery surfaces
- Properly secure ladder to prevent ladder kick outs
- If you need help, get help to hold the base of the ladder
- Refer to AISH 17 – Use and Care of Ladders for guidance