

Lessons Learned



...Building People Who Build Great Things

Date: March 01, 2022

Region: Denver

Project: X1476 TMCA Boiler

Incident Title: Missed Step on Ladder

Summary

When descending a six-foot ladder employee mistakenly thought he was on the last step of the ladder and was not. Employee was carrying a ½ ton chain fall down the ladder when he fell. As he descended, he could feel the weight of the chain fall getting lighter this supported the illusion that he was on the last rung. When he realized his error, it was already too late, his right knee was straining already so he let himself go to the floor, attempting to lessen the strain to his knee.



What Went Right?

- Employees reported the incident right away.
- Care and first aid were promptly provided to the employee.
- Employee maintained three points of contact while descending the ladder.

What Went Wrong?

- Proper procedures for ladder use were not followed.
- Instead of handing down the chain fall or lowering it to the floor, he was carrying the chain fall down the ladder.
- Employee's decision to carry the chain fall helped to miss the last step of the ladder.

Lessons Learned

- Look down before you exit the ladder, are you on the last rung?
- If a ladder is in good condition and used properly, it will never be the cause of the accident.
- Statistics show that over five hundred workers go to the emergency room each day because of ladder-related injury.
- When using a ladder, always maintain three points of contact – this DOES NOT mean that it is okay to carry an armful of materials or tools when on a ladder.