

Lessons Learned

Date: 3/1/2023

Region: Southern JA.

Project: Eagle.

Incident Title: Fall from Ladder.

Summary	Picture
<p>3.1.2023, Worker had set up a lean safe ladder (CrossXStep) on the east face of the Air Handling unit to tighten a bolt on the lid of that unit. Worker at this point was standing on the 4th rung of the ladder to reach the bolt with 2 ratchet wrenches, 1 wrench on the bolt head the other on the bolt nut. Worker started to tighten bolt, when the bolt head broke (during tightening) causing a loss of balance. Worker dropped both wrenches (tied off to safety vest) he attempted to reach for the top of the unit to recover balance but was too far away to grasp. He dropped down off the ladder landing on his feet on top of an open crate that was filled with shims, continued to fall backwards and to the side away from the crate, eventually landing on his behind then rolling on his back. Worker laid on the roof approx. 1-3 mins. 2 other Apollo workers walked over and asked the worker that fell if he was okay. Worker stood up took a few steps to assess himself. After his self-assessment he reported to the foreman about the incident. The foreman did report the incident to the GF, but the GF did not report the incident to the Safety department. Worker came into work on Thursday and Friday working full shifts and seemed fine and still did not want to go to the nurse to be evaluated. Saturday (no work Saturday) at 5:46 pm worker texted foreman that a clinic performed x-rays on both legs and was treated and given crutches and was told it was a no work type fracture, off 6 to 8 weeks. Text was forwarded to GF at 6 pm same day. Monday 3.6.2023 2:15 pm Apollo Safety was notified of the incident, calling tree was activated. The fall resulted in a subtle nondisplaced fracture to the fibular head.</p>	

What Went Right?	What Went Wrong?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 2 ratchet wrenches the worker was using were tied off with tool lanyards. • Worker returned to work and the case is being managed, no time loss. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Late reporting. Foreman nor the GF reported the incident out, calling tree was not activated. • Could have used the scissor lift that was 6ft away from where the task was being performed. • Worker went to the clinic after hours to be evaluated. No notification that he was going to clinic for treatment or if he was injured.

Lessons Learned
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regardless of the severity of the incident we need to report out. This gives Apollo Management and Safety department the information to assist and manage incidents and to insure timely and proper care for individuals that may be hurt. • Falls/slips/trips account for 17% of fatalities in the construction industry in 2020. Selecting the proper tool for the job, in this case an MEWP could have prevented this type of injury and fall to lower level. Ladders can be useful in certain situations, but MEWPs' or scaffolding should be the first option when it comes to working at heights.