Lessons Learned

Date:	8/8/2023	Region:	National Service - Spokane
Project:	Providence Hospital	Incident Title:	Fall from Ladder

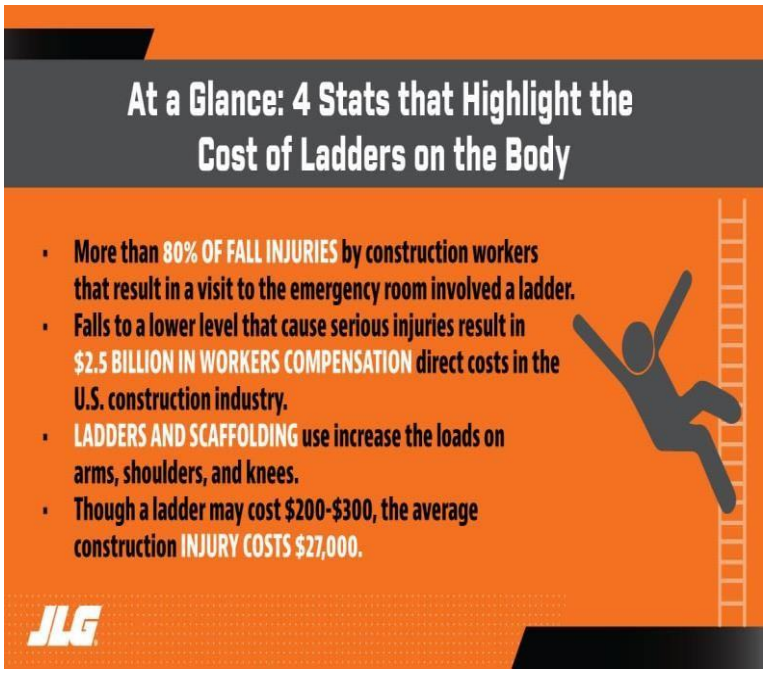
Summary

Apollo was tasked with performing a change order for an ongoing project that would require Apollo to demolish light gauge low pressure duct. The Apollo supervisor grabbed a facility provided aluminum ladder and used it to access his work about 3 feet off the ground level. The employee was prepared to use his auto-snips power tool to demo out a 14”x10” section of light gauge duct. The employee was standing on the 3rd rung of the ladder, reached up with both hands on the tool, when something happened, and he fell.

The employee does not recall losing balance or a specific incident that caused him to fall. It can be assumed that the ladder wasn’t fully extended, or the employee lost his balance and with only 2 points of contact and had no way to catch himself. The employee recalls trying to turn as he fell to avoid landing flat on his back, this resulted in him falling on his back and side. The employee recalls his head hitting the ground but his hard hat staying on and protecting his head from bouncing off the hospital floor.

The employee was taken to an occupation clinic and then directed to seek treatment and diagnosis at a local ER. Employee suffered fractured ribs and vertebrae.

Picture



What Went Right?

- Employee was wearing a hard hat and appropriate PPE for the task.
- Employee was trained on ladder use.
- Ladder was inspected before use and no defects were found.

What Went Wrong?

- Employee did not maintain 3 points of contact while performing work.
- Employee did not get help with someone securing the ladder while he had to work with only 2 points of contact.
- No daily PTP was documented before the work was performed.

Lessons Learned

- Ladder refresher training to be performed with the department. Ladder use evaluation training and program coming down the pipeline.
- Enroll remote workers into KPA for mobile PTP and document access to complete from their iPad or work phone.
- If work from a ladder requires less than 3 points of contact, a great evaluation of the work must be performed. Ladder may not be the right tool for the job.
- Ladders are one of our most used tools, but also one of our most dangerous tools. Ladder usage must be considered high risk and evaluated accordingly.
- Finished floors like hospital floors or smooth concrete are considered slippery surfaces when placing ladders on them. Because of this, they need to be secured on these types of finishes before they are used.