

Ladder Accident Statistics

Falls from ladders are a frequent cause of injuries in workplaces. Most ladder accidents involve falls of 10 feet (3 meters) or less. Often a fall from a ladder results in a serious time-loss injury and falls from accidents are the leading cause of deaths on construction sites. However, ladder accidents are not limited to construction sites.

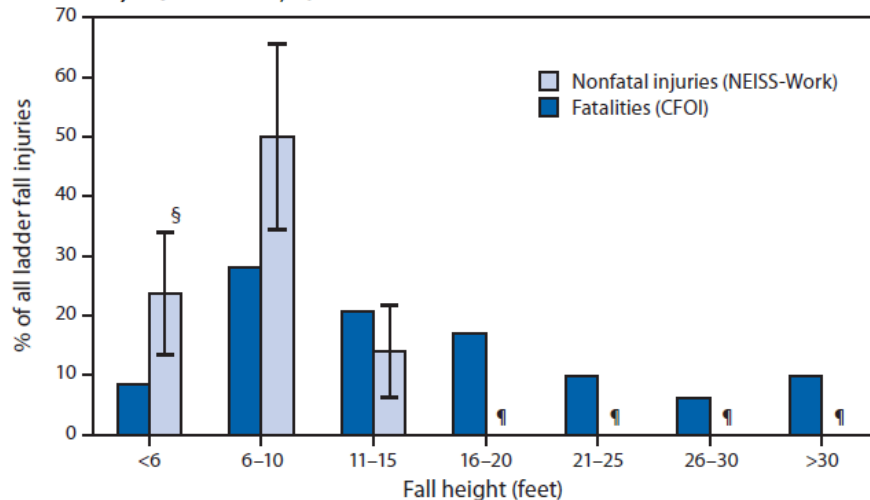
Accepted WCB Claims (falls from Ladder – BC 2001-2010)

Accepted claims by sector, year of injury and accident type (fall from ladder) 2001-2010

Industry Sector	All claims	Serious injuries	% of serious injuries
Construction (Sector 72)	3,749	2,094	55.8%
Service (Sector 76)	2,114	1,057	50.0%
Trade (Sector 74)	1,347	579	42.9%
Manufacturing (Sector 71)	1,230	552	44.8%
Primary Resources (Sector 70)	428	267	62.3%
Transportation and Warehousing (Sector	354	185	52.2%
Public Sector	181	80	44.1%
TOTAL - All Sectors	9,403	4,814	51.1%

The sector with the highest number of accepted injury claims for falls from ladders is Construction, but a closer look at industry classes reveals that ladder falls are a concern in a many other industry areas. Following is a list of the industry classes with the most ladder fall claims.

FIGURE. Percentage of ladder fall fatalities* and nonfatal ladder fall injuries treated in emergency departments,[†] by fall height (when documented) – United States, 2011



Safety in Numbers – Portable Ladders

Not only are falls from ladders (or any fall from height) a common injury, they typically result in serious lost time from work. The average fall from a ladder results in 18 days of lost time.

Median Days Away from Work after fall to a Lower Level

Industry Sector	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Manufacturing	14	14	16	12	16	20	20
Trade, Transportation, Utilities	14	16	17	22	25	20	21
Information	15	8	10	34	27	30	13
Financial Activities	10	10	5	5	14	25	16
Professional and Business Services	14	12	13	12	14	11	21
Educational and Health Services	8	8	7	6	6	7	13
Leisure and Hospitality	7	7	14	11	6	11	7
Other Services, except Public Administration	11	4	33	3	8	35	10
All Private Industry	14	15	15	14	16	21	18

Source: <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2016-11-18/pdf/2016-24557.pdf>

Some common causes of ladder injuries include:

- mounting or dismounting the ladder improperly;
- failing to set up the ladder properly;
- over-reaching while on the ladder; and
- miss-stepping while climbing or descending.

Its not the ladder. Its you!

North American and Scandinavian studies have found that over 95% of all incidents involving ladders are the result of the unsafe acts of users.

Safety in Numbers – Portable Ladders

Top 20 industry classes (CUs) for accepted ladder fall claims 2001-2010

Industry classification (CU number)	All claims	Serious injuries	% Serious claims
House or Other Wood Frame General Contracting, Construction or Renovation Work (721027)	748	436	58.2%
General Retail (not elsewhere specified) (741013)	532	241	45.3%
Painting or Wallpapering (721041)	443	277	62.5%
Plumbing, Heating, Vent, Residential Air Conditioning, or Central Vacuum System Installation or Repair (721043)	400	165	41.2%
Electrical Work (721019)	383	180	46.9%
Industrial, Commercial, Institutional or Highrise Residential General Contracting or Construction (721028)	261	136	52.1%
Steep Slope Roofing (721051)	214	148	69.1%
Framing or Residential Forming (721024)	188	112	59.5%
Siding, Awning, or Gutter Installation, Service, or Repair (721049)	177	106	59.8%
Supermarket (741025)	167	64	38.3%
Public School District (765008)	163	74	45.3%
Orchard (701017)	162	114	70.3%
Restaurant or Other Dining Establishment (761035)	157	62	39.4%
Local Government and Related Operations (753004)	145	61	42.0%
Department Store (741008)	130	50	38.4%
Drywalling or Acoustic Board Installation (721018)	121	78	64.4%
Building Management, Building Rental, or Mobile Home Parks and Strata Corporations (761033)	113	79	69.9%
General Trucking (not elsewhere specified) (732019)	101	64	63.3%
Low Slope Roofing (721036)	100	62	62.0%
Home Improvement Centre (741014)	100	40	40.9%