

Tailgate Safety Talk

Ladder Safety

Dangers/Risks/Problems:

According to OSHA, “falls from portable ladders are one of the leading causes of occupational fatalities and injuries” and falls from ladders make up nearly a third of construction deaths.

In public works, we are often employing ladders from less stable, unlevel areas, along with other challenges, and good safety practices are essential.

Considerations to Mitigate Risk:

Many considerations are listed in the handout and you don’t have to go through every single one of them. Encourage your crews to read through these themselves when they have time. Take a handful of them that are most relevant to the types of ladder activities your crew is likely to be involved with in the near future. In preparation for the tailgate safety talk, highlight 6-8 of the most relevant items in the list. Chances are, as employees read along, they’ll bring or two up with questions – questions are always great.

When is a Ladder a Poor Choice?

This is a question that merits a conscious choice. Encourage your crews to think about elevated tasks and recognize when something other than a ladder is called for.

Safety Videos:

The American Ladder Institute has very helpful, free videos (see link below) for stepladder safety, single and extension ladder safety, mobile ladder safety, and articulated ladder safety. These are 13-25 minutes long, so they may be better suited for a lunch and learn environment or as part of another training program. However, you might chose one of the videos and play it in lieu of going over the handout – just give them the handout and ask them to review it when they have time later.

Safety Training:

The American Ladder Institute has free online training (see link below) for individuals or groups. These two are organized for stepladders, single and extension ladders, mobile ladders, and articulated ladders. You can use these as part of your training certification program if you like.

Resources for Further Reading:

OSHA Publications: <https://www.osha.gov/pls/publications/publication.AthruZ?pType=AthruZ#L>

American Ladder Institute (videos): <http://www.americanladderinstitute.org/page/LSTVideos>

American Ladder Institute (training): <https://www.laddersafetytraining.org/>