

# MSFC Safety Bulletin



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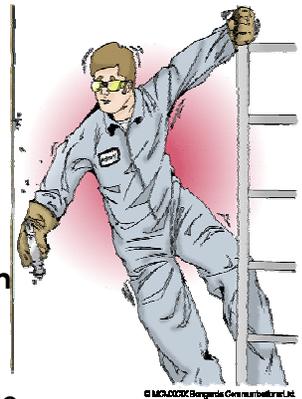
## Ladder Fall Could Have Caused Serious Injury

### What Happened?

- Two employees were working from ladders, on opposite sides of a wall, to install piping that penetrated the wall.
- As one employee began to descend his 10-foot stepladder, he shifted his weight. The ladder toppled over, and the employee fell 6 to 7 feet to the floor. E-911 was called.
- HEMSI responded to the after-hours incident, and transported the employee to a local hospital for medical evaluation and treatment.
- The employee suffered no broken bones, and was released to return to normal work duties.

### What Can Be Done?

- Assure that all personnel receive training on safe practices for working from ladders.
- Select and use a ladder of the proper design, size, and rating for the nature of the work to be done.
- Inspect ladders for defects before use, and use only ladders that are in safe working condition.
- Ensure that each ladder is properly set up for use, with stable footing.
- When using long and/or non-self-supporting ladders, secure the upper portion of the ladder to an immovable object or structure. This will prevent movement of the occupied ladder during task performance.
- Use of a 'buddy' to hold the ladder is another option for situations where ladder stability may become an issue.



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