



BIE SAFETY ADVISOR



March is National Ladder Safety Month

Every step matters: From step stools to extension ladders, make sure you're putting the right foot forward.

Every year over 100 people die in ladder-related accidents, and thousands suffer disabling injuries. Join the American Ladder Institute (ALI) and participate in National Ladder Safety Month in March. This important month was designed to raise awareness of ladder safety and to decrease the number of ladder-related injuries and fatalities.

What is National Ladder Safety Month?

National Ladder Safety Month, observed in March and spearheaded by the American Ladder Institute (ALI), is the only program dedicated exclusively to promoting ladder safety, at home and work. Each year, tens of thousands of injuries and hundreds of deaths are caused by ladder misuse. By providing critical guidelines and raising awareness on safe use, we can help decrease these numbers.

ALI, the only approved developer of safety standards for the U.S. ladder industry, is the presenting sponsor for National Ladder Safety Month.

ALI believes ladder accidents are preventable with thorough safety planning, training, and continuous innovation in product design. The more people, organizations, and businesses get involved, the wider the message spreads, and the more people learn about proper ladder safety.

The "Why": Every life saved is precious.

The goals of National Ladder Safety Month are to:

- Decrease number of ladder-related injuries and fatalities.
- Increase the number of ladder safety training certificates issued by ALI.
- Increase the frequency that ladder safety training modules are viewed on www.laddersafetytraining.org.

- Lower the rankings of ladder-related safety citations on OSHA's yearly "Top 10 Citations List".
- Increase the number of in-person ladder trainings.
- Increase the number of companies and individuals that inspect and properly dispose of old, damaged, or obsolete ladders.

Planned Events for National Ladder Safety Month 2024

National Ladder Safety Month 2024 is the eighth year ALI and its partners have celebrated ladder safety throughout March.

This year, education and promotion will focus on the following topics:

Week One: Training and Awareness

Thursday, March 5, 2024
1:00 PM – 2:00 PM EDT

Week Two: Inspection and Maintenance

Thursday, March 14, 2024
2:00 PM – 3:00 PM EDT

Week Three: Stabilization, Setup, Accessories

Tuesday, March 19, 2024
1:00 PM – 2:00 PM EDT

Week Four: Safe Climbing and Positioning

Thursday, March 24, 2024
2:00 PM – 3:00 PM EDT

2024 Ladder Safety Webinar Series registration available at:

<https://www.laddersafetymonth.com/participate/scheduled-events/>

View the webinar recordings from the 2023 Ladder Safety Webinar Series, sponsored by Werner and Louisville Ladder, at:

<https://www.laddersafetymonth.com/safety-resources/videos/#2023recordings>



Monthly Toolbox Talk

Ladder Inspections

Inspect Ladders Carefully!

All ladders must be inspected for defects and/or damage periodically by a competent person, and after any occurrence that could affect their safe use.

Ladder users must inspect ladders before each use, and defective and/or damaged ladders must either be immediately marked in a manner that readily identifies them as defective/damaged or be tagged with a "Do Not Use" tag or tag containing similar language. Defective and/or damaged ladders must not be used and must be removed from service until repaired.

Look for warning signs. Check all ladder components for signs of wear, corrosion and structural failure before each use. These inspections should include:

- ✓ Rungs - Check for broken split, cracked, corroded or missing rungs.
- ✓ Side Rails - Check for broken, split, cracked, corroded or missing side rails.
- ✓ Cracks - Check carefully for cracks; they are hard to see. Cracks weaken ladders.
- ✓ Excessive Bends - Check for rungs or side rails with excessive bends. Bent areas are greatly weakened and may fail during use.
- ✓ Hardware - Check for ladders with loose, corroded, or weakened fasteners and hardware.
- ✓ Feet - Check ladders for missing or damaged feet. Ladder feet may have both non-skid pads for use on hard surfaces (concrete), and metal feet for soft surfaces (dirt).
- ✓ Coatings or Paint - Check for paint or other coating hiding defects. Wood ladders shall not be painted or coated with any opaque covering, except for identification or warning labels which may be placed on one face only of a side rail. When other types of ladders are painted it is very hard for the user to observe defects/damage such as cracks or dents and painted areas must be inspected carefully for hidden damage.
- ✓ Oil, grease, and other slipping hazards - Inspect ladders for oil, grease, moisture, or other slippery materials before use and clean as necessary.
- ✓ Capacity - Check the capacity label and make sure the ladder has sufficient capacity to hold you and everything you are wearing/carrying.

