

## Ladder Safety Checklist

Here is a jobsite example: Ryan was applying sheetrock mud to a wall and was standing on the top rung of a 12-foot ladder. He lost his balance, fell to the concrete floor, and landed on his head. He suffered a major head injury.

Ladders are involved in many accidents, some of which are fatal. Your life can literally depend on knowing how to inspect, use and care for this tool.

### Ladder Safety Checklist

Look for the following faults:

- Loose or missing rungs or cleats
- Loose nails, bolts, or screws
- Wood splinters or damaged edges
- Cracked, broken, split, dented, or badly worn rungs, cleats, or side rails
- Corrosion of metal ladders or metal parts

If you find a ladder in poor condition, tag the ladder and take it out of service. If repairs are not feasible, the defective ladder should be removed from the job site.

Find a ladder and use the ladder safety checklist to inspect it for safety. Discuss in your group simple ways to make using ladders safer.

As a bonus, if there is a lift nearby, go see it and talk to the construction workers about the safety precautions they take.