

EASE 1-1



Abstract of an Accident

94-4

ACCIDENT TYPE: FALL FROM LADDER
INJURY: MULTIPLE FRACTURES OF RIGHT LEG, LACERATION ON RIGHT KNEE, CONTUSION TO FACE, ABRASION TO RIGHT SMALL FINGER AND PAIN IN LOWER BACK
TYPE OF WORK: PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE ON A/C EQUIPMENT ON ROOF
EQUIPMENT: ALUMINUM METAL EXTENSION LADDER

DESCRIPTION OF THE ACCIDENT:

An employee fell approximately three feet to a concrete surface from an aluminum extension ladder sustaining multiple injuries. His left foot stuck to a rung while he descended the ladder. As he tried to free his foot, he began falling to his left. He tried to catch himself by grabbing the ladder railing, but failed. His left foot jerked free of the rung and he began sliding down the face of the ladder. As he slid, his right foot caught in the rungs, causing his body to twist and he fell to the left striking his left elbow. As he lay on the ground, he attempted to look at his right foot tangled in the ladder. When he twisted his upper body, he felt his right leg break below the knee cap.

PROBABLE CAUSE:

- The roof was made of pitch and gravel. Black markings on the rubber-coated ladder rung sleeves indicate tar may have coated the soles of the employee's safety shoes and then stuck to the rungs as he descended.
- Although the employee's right hand finger tips were burned off in a motor vehicle mishap over five years ago, and he cannot fully extend his right arm, nor can he completely open his right hand, there is no previous history he had difficulty climbing ladders. In this case however, these limitations may have contributed to his inability to stop his fall by grabbing the ladder railing.

LESSONS LEARNED:

- Ensure employees shoes are free of foreign materials (such as pitch, tar, gravel) before using ladders.
- Ladder safety training is essential in preventing accidents by preventing unsafe conditions.
- Enforcement of safe practices and procedures are essential to ensure a safe work environment. Seemingly routine low hazard jobs can result in serious injury.

Your SAFETY contact is...