

ASSE GULF COAST CHAPTER > ENERGY CORRIDOR  
*LESSONS LEARNED*



# LESSONS-LEARNED

## *WORKING AT HEIGHTS*

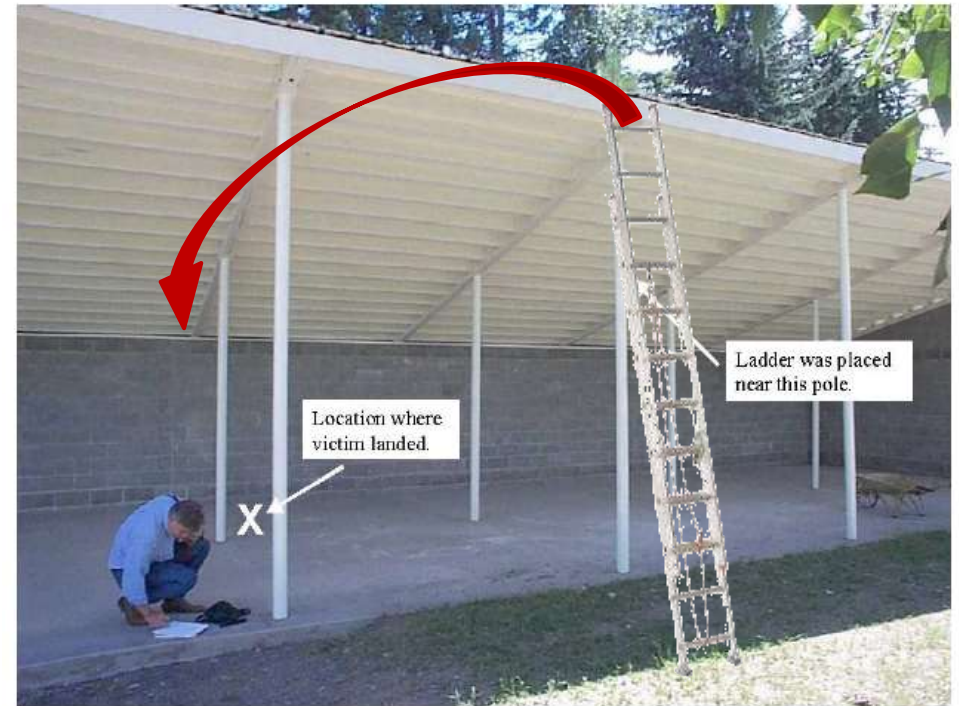
Zulfiya Samedova – 9 February 2017

# Event Description



59-year-old painter/independent contractor (the victim) died of injuries after he fell (~ 8-10') while working from a metal extension ladder

- **Routine Task:**  
Touch up painting around the roof beams near the front of the building
- **Problem:**  
Improper use of equipment, and insufficient assessment and mitigation of risk.



*(Actual position of ladder unknown:  
Drawing depicts hypothetical scenario)*

# Event Significance



Is the risk ALARP? **NO**

- Based on evaluation of the task, likelihood could be expected to occur at some time.
- Fatality consequences could be expected.
- Assessed risk is **“very high”**

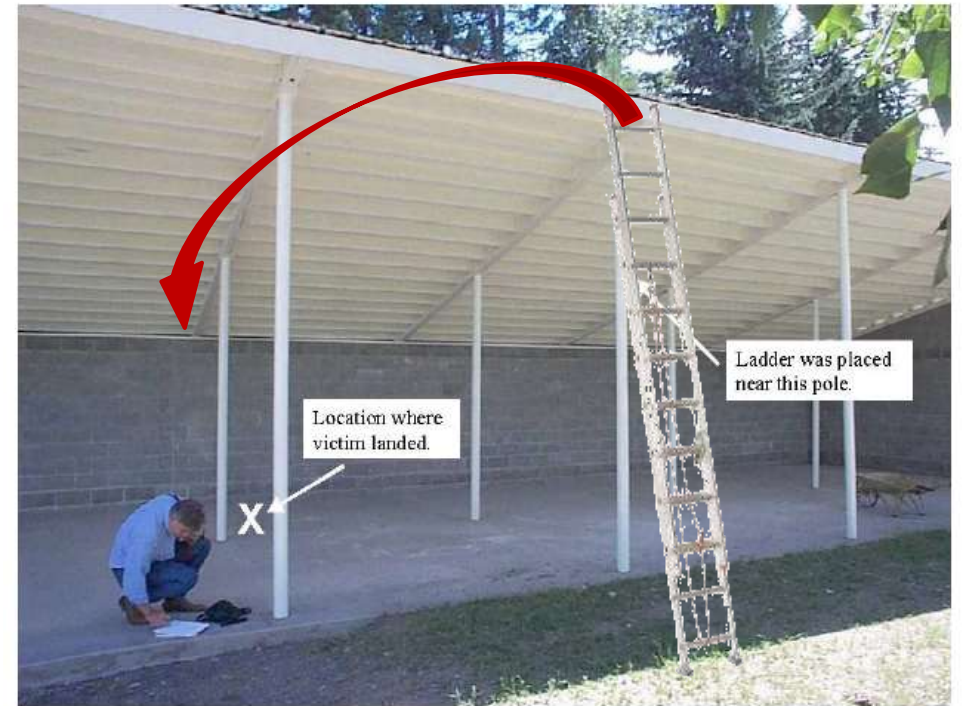
Is the risk acceptable? **NO**

		Slight injury / health effects	Minor injury / health effects	Major injury / health effects	Permanent Total Disability or one fatality	Multiple fatalities
		Not Significant	Minor	Moderate	Major	Severe
Expected to occur regularly in normal circumstances	Almost Certain	Medium	High	Very High	Very High	Very High
Expected to occur at some time	Likely	Medium	High	High	Very High	Very High
May occur at some time	Possible	Low	Medium	High	High	Very High
Not likely to occur in normal circumstances	Unlikely	Low	Low	Medium	Medium	High
Could happen, but probably never will	Rare	Low	Low	Low	Low	Medium

# Event Cause(s)



- Routine Task:
  - ☒ Lack of proper planning and understanding of the potential hazards
- Unsafe working techniques
  - ☒ Improper type of ladder for the job?
  - ☒ Ladder was not secured from tipping,
  - ☒ Ladder was not long enough to allow for the proper 3' overhang
  - ☒ Worker was not secured from falling by use of a positioning device when working 4-6' off ground.
  - ☒ Possible unsafe working techniques (e.g.: leaning, 2 points of contact, etc.)
  - ☒ Lone worker: no buddy system during the task
- Fitness for the job
  - ☒ Unsure if age/health contributed to the fall



*(Actual position of ladder unknown:  
Drawing depicts hypothetical scenario)*

# Event Prevention



## Elimination & Substitution:

- Not reasonable given nature of variable work conditions

## Engineering:

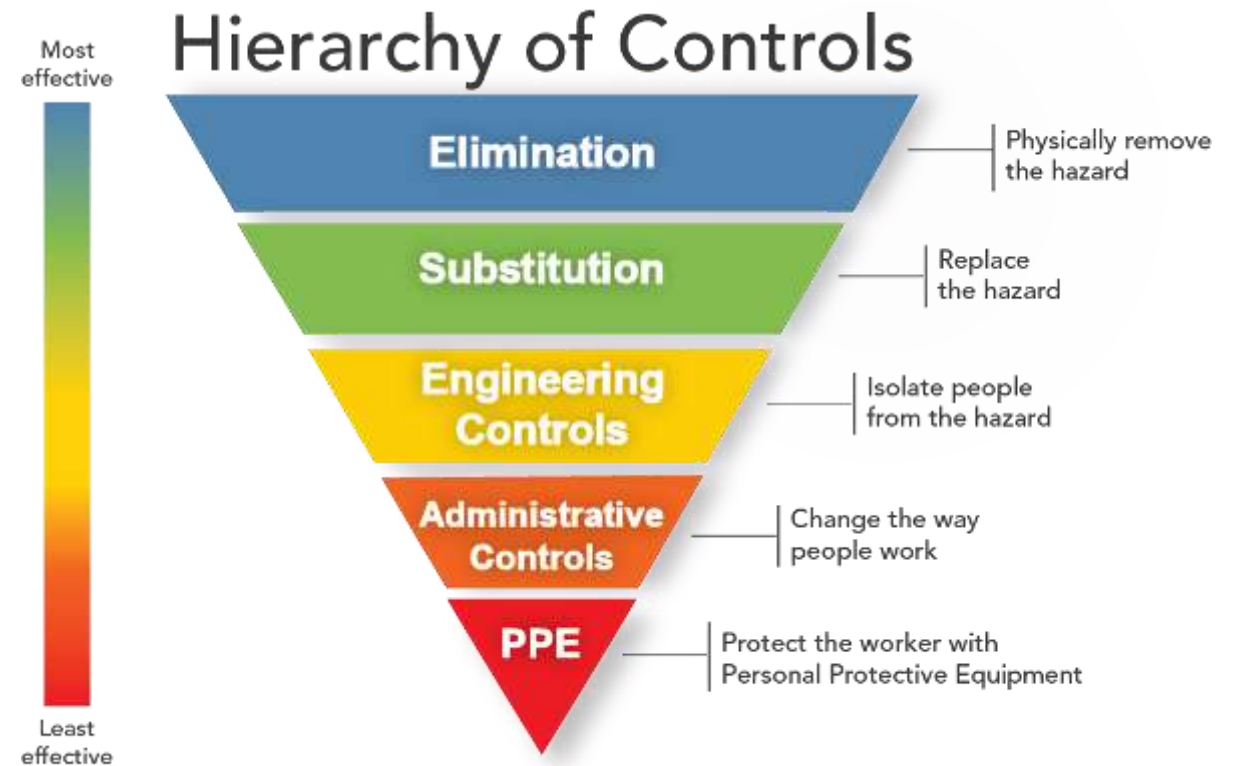
- Select and use the proper equipment
- Ensure the ladder is secured from tipping

## Administrative:

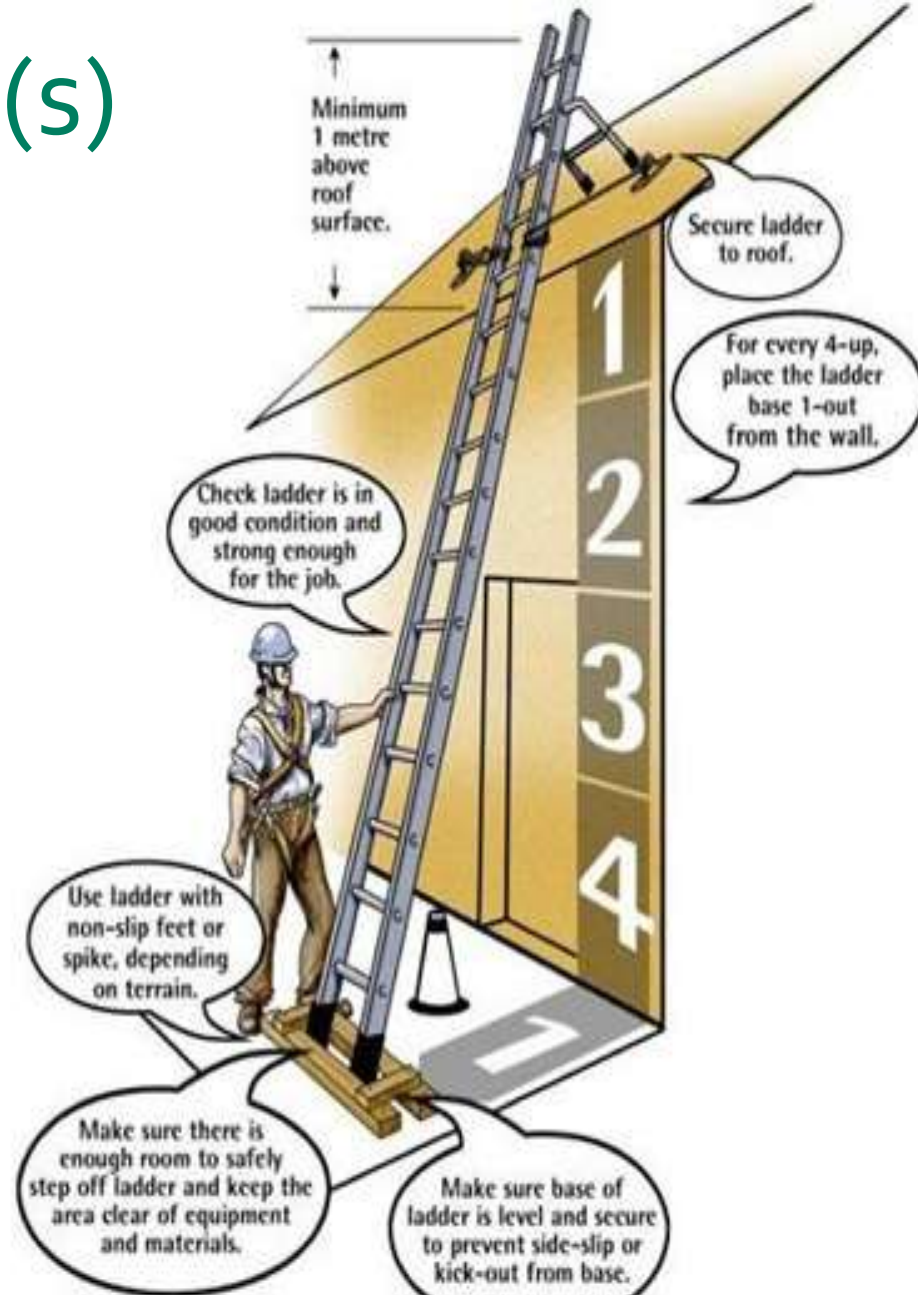
- Lone Worker Program
- Training
- Work Planning
- Assess/mitigate risks (JSA)
- Fitness for the job
- Assurance

## PPE:

- Fall Arrest



# Event Cause(s)



# Summary



- Identify Hazard and complete risk assessment, even for a routine task.
- Ensure workforce is properly trained to assess and mitigate risks associated with their work (e.g.: JSA/JHA, SOPs)
- Inspect and maintain the equipment.
- Use the proper equipment correctly for the task
- Use fall prevention methods when working from heights above (4' / 6')
- Implement a lone worker program, and assure conformance with it.

# Post Event Significance



The worker could still fall off of the ladder, but the engineering controls combined with proper PPE use will reduce the likelihood for the ladder to tip and eliminate the fatality potential, and significantly reduce the severity potential.

- Is the entire risk removed – NO
- Is the risk at As Low As Reasonably Practical (ALARP) - YES

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Not likely to occur in normal circumstances	Unlikely	Low	Low	Medium	Medium	High
Could happen, but probably never will	Rare	Low	Low	Low	Low	Medium



# 2017 Topics



- January 2017: Chemical Safety
- February: Working at Heights
- **March: Dropped Objects**
- April: Electrical Safety
- May: Energy Isolations
- June: Layers of protection (design)
- July: Loss of Containment
- August: Fire Safety
- September: Lifting Operations
- October: Permit-to-Work.