

CHAPTER 24

LADDERS

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Purpose

The purpose of this procedure is to establish safety rules for ladders used in the County of Shasta. It applies to all County employees and contractor personnel performing in and on County-owned or -leased property.

Policy and Procedures

The supervisor in charge of the work being performed is responsible for compliance with the following:

1. All ladders shall be used at such a pitch that the horizontal distance from the top support to the foot of the ladder is one quarter the assembly length of the ladder.
2. Metal ladders may be used only where electrical installations do not produce a hazard.
3. Each ladder shall be inspected daily. Those ladders which develop defects shall be withdrawn from service for repair or destruction and shall be tagged or marked "Danger, Do Not Use." Improvised ladders shall not be made.
4. Ladders shall be stored in such a manner as to provide ease of access or inspection and to prevent danger of accident when withdrawing a ladder for use.
5. Ladders shall be stored at a location where they will not be exposed to the elements but where there is good ventilation. Wood ladders shall not be stored near radiators, stoves, steam pipes, or other places subjected to excessive heat or dampness. Rungs will be kept free of grease and oil or any other product which could result in slippery conditions.
6. The top rest of the ladder shall be rigid and shall have ample strength to support the applied load. Ladders shall not be placed in front of doors unless the door is blocked open, locked, or guarded.
7. When ascending or descending a ladder, the user shall always face the ladder.
8. No employee shall be permitted to stand on or work from the top three (3) rungs of any ladder unless there are structural members who provide a firm handhold or the worker is protected from falling by an approved safety belt.
9. Wooden ladders shall not be painted with other than a transparent material.
10. All ladders shall be equipped with non-slip bases suitable to the bearing surface. Non-slip bases are not intended as a substitute for care in safety placing, lashing, or holding a ladder which is being used on oily, metal, concrete, or slippery conditions.