

# CSDA Best Practice for Sawing and Drilling Operations

Title: Ladder Safety Fact Sheet

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Ladders are a convenient tool to reach heights, but they represent a risk to sawing and drilling contractors if not used in accordance with company and specific site safety specifications or requirements. The following are precautions and guidelines for the safe use of step ladders and straight (extension) ladders in the sawing and drilling industry:

1. Inspect prior to use and remove from service if damaged.
2. When working around energized sources, use non-conductive ladders made of fiberglass or wood.
3. Make sure the ladder meets height and weight restrictions. Remember to include the weight of all sawing and drilling equipment to be used when calculating total load.
4. Ladders must be clean and free of oil and slurry from sawing and drilling operations.
5. The maximum height of a step ladder is 12 feet, but 10 feet is the maximum working height.
6. When working from a ladder, sawing and drilling contractors should not climb higher than the second step from the top.
7. Position the base of a straight ladder one foot away from the wall for every four feet of the ladder's length from the support point to the surface.
8. If a straight ladder extends over a roof or ledge, it must stand at least 3 feet above the highest point of contact.
9. Straight ladders must be tied off prior to use.
10. Maintain a minimum three point contact, meaning at least two hands and a foot or two feet and a hand are in contact with the ladder when ascending or descending. Face the ladder when moving up or down.
11. Sawing and drilling equipment must be transported to or from the work area via rope or hoist. Do not carry objects or loads that could cause loss of balance on a ladder.
12. Ladders cannot be used while placed on scaffolding or sawing and drilling equipment.
13. Never make modifications to a ladder.
14. If possible, restrict access to the area around the ladder to keep people and equipment a safe distance away.
15. Ladders should be positioned safely on a flat surface.
16. Do not use ladders on slippery surfaces unless secured or provided with slip-resistant feet. However, do not use slip-resistant feet as a substitute for using care when placing, lashing or holding a ladder on slippery surfaces.
17. Do not move, shift or extend ladders while in use.



Typical Step Ladder



Straight (Extension) Ladder