integrity safety services

Weekly Safety Meeting

Ladders are Killers

Date: _____ Jobsite: _____

Discussion Leader:

_____

Attendance Sign- In:

_____

Summary

This is a true story only the first name of the victim has been changed. One of our friends wrote: "I lost a good friend September 15, 1997 from a fall from a roof. It seems that my friend Leroy went to help a neighbor with a leaking roof problem."

Guide for Discussion

It was on a low pitched single story home (a 3/12 or 4/12 pitched roof), about eight foot ground to eaves's height. From family reports, Leroy borrowed a ladder from the neighbor to go up and temporarily fix the problem. However, it was just the top half of an extension ladder without safety feet on the bottom.

Leroy placed the ladder on a painted concrete patio, leaning against the house, with just one rung above the landing surface. Carrying a large rock to hold down the felt, Leroy went up the ladder.

While going up the ladder, the two friends continued their conversation. When Leroy got ready to step off the ladder, the ladder slipped and fell away. Leroy dropped the rock as he fell backward eight to ten feet. The rock bounced on the patio; Leroy hit the back of his head on the rock. He died later that night never having regained consciousness. He left four children (two of whom are contractors) and four grandchildren.

Leroy was an experienced concrete finisher, framer, finished carpenter, and roofer—a skilled "woodworker" according to his obituary. He was careless. I will miss Leroy. His children and grandchildren will miss him more; our sympathies go to the family. However, his accident was preventable.

There are about a dozen "common sense" safety violation lessons learned from Leroy's death. What lessons can you learn from this?

Additional Discussion Notes:

_____

Remember

Tragedies remind us that fall's from ladders or roofs are serious and can be fatal. Every once in a while we need to be reminded why we have safety rules—and why they need to be followed. Don't you take unnecessary chances by using the wrong tool.

14300 NE 20th Ave Suite D-102 #280 Vancouver, WA 98686
office (360)574-6071 fax (360)574-3906
www.integritysafety.com