



Painting Contractors—Falls from Ladders

224 painters were seriously injured falling from ladders in the years 2000-2004 resulting in over 60,000 lost work days



These fall injuries are costly and affect your industrial insurance premiums. They contribute to the reason for the average base rate of \$2.51 per hour per employee paid by contractors employing exterior painters in 2006. If your company has a higher than average number of injuries (claims), your “experience rating” could increase by as much as 25% in one year to \$3.11 per hour per employee.

Stated in another way, if you had 5 full-time exterior painters and had an average number of injuries (claims), you would pay about \$25,100 in premiums in 2006. If your experience rating increased by 25% because you had higher than average injuries, you would pay about \$7000 more or \$31,100 in premiums in 2006.

Note: the average base rate for *interior painters* is \$1.06 per hour per employee.

Causes of ladder fall injuries

15% of all serious injuries to painting contractor employees are from falls from ladders. These falls most frequently result in injuries to the back, wrist, ankle, foot and knee or combinations of these. Sometimes, these falls are fatal.

Use both hands to climb a ladder



This way...



Not this way!!

Ways to prevent ladder fall injuries

Ladder safety is an important part of painting work because of their frequent use. Here are some basic rules for use:

- ◆ Have both hands free when climbing the ladder.
- ◆ Face the ladder when climbing or descending.
- ◆ Keep ladders free of oil, grease and dirt.
- ◆ Make sure the ladder is secure at the base.
- ◆ Place the ladder at the proper angle against a building.
- ◆ Stay off the top rungs of step ladders.
- ◆ Don't over-reach. Move the ladder as needed.

Link to ladder safety checklist:

http://www.lni.wa.gov/Safety/Topics/AtoZ/LadderSafety/LadderSafety_Eng-Span.pdf