



# ENVIRONMENTAL & OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH & SAFETY

## Programs & Policies —

### LADDER SAFETY

## PURPOSE and SCOPE

Youngstown State University is committed to provide a safe and healthful environment to all employees. It is, therefore, the University's intention to do all that it can to eliminate the potential for injuries due to falls from ladders by providing the proper engineering controls and ongoing inspection programs. In this effort, YSU has established these procedures to protect employees from accidental injuries resulting from unsafe ladder usage.

## PROCEDURE

1. All wooden parts must be free from splinters, cracks and decay. Metal ladders must be inspected for slivers and dents that would compromise the structural integrity of the ladder.
2. Joints between the steps (rungs) and the side rails must be tight. Rungs should not move when twisted by hand.
3. All hardware and fittings must be securely attached.
4. All moveable parts must operate freely without binding. Lubricate if necessary.
5. Safety feet/cleats must be sound and unbroken.
6. Rungs/steps must be free of grease, oil, or any other substance that would make them slippery. Wooden ladders having oil or grease on standing and/or gripping surfaces should be steam cleaned to remove the substance. Under no circumstances should corrosive or alkali materials be used to remove grease or oil, as these may compromise the structural integrity of the ladder. Rungs/steps on metal ladders must be corrugated, knurled or coated with a slip resistant material.
7. No rungs/steps may be missing.
8. Stepladders must have a metal spreader or locking device of sufficient size and strength to securely hold the front and back sections in an open position.
9. The spreader should not have any sharp objects protruding from it.
10. No ladder should be painted or coated with any material that may cover up obvious defects.
11. All ladders should be inspected using these criteria before each use. Any ladder that has any defect that would compromise the safety of the ladder must be taken out of service immediately and marked with a red tag bearing the words DANGEROUS -- DO NOT USE. Defective ladders, after they have been red-tagged should be reported by the employee to his/her supervisor.
12. Employees may not make repairs to ladders on their own. The supervisor or department head will decide if the ladder is to be replaced or repaired.

