

# HIGH DANGER Falls from ladders

Safe Work Australia released its report on 'Work-related Injuries and Fatalities Involving a Fall from Height' (2013) and never have the dangers been clearer for one of the workplaces most commonly used products for accessing heights.

Ladders of all shapes and sizes, portable and fixed, are in the regulator's spotlight after new regulations and a national code of practice mandated regular inspections in line with Australian Standards. And here's why.

## Fatal Ladders

In the eight years from 1 July 2003 to 30 June 2011, **37** workers died following a fall from a ladder.

The reason for the fall was only known in **20** of the incidents:

Workers were climbing up or down the ladder.

Falls due to over-balancing on the ladder

Incidents were thought to have been precipitated by a medical event prior to the fall

A worker fell due to the ladder collapsing



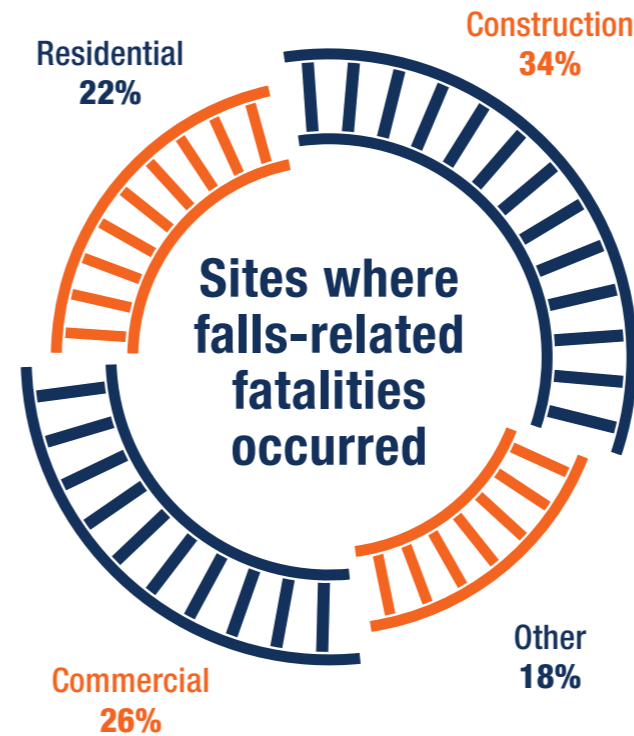
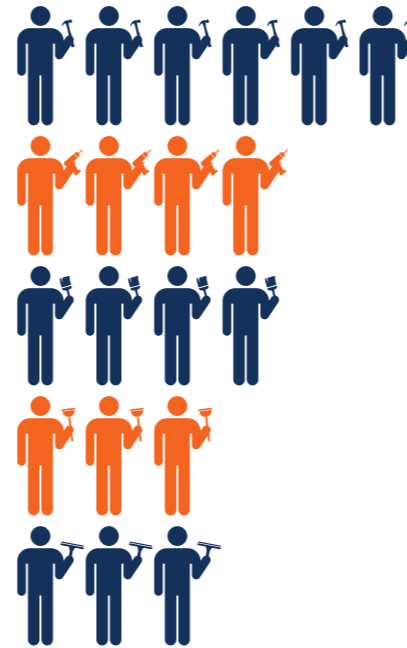
Workers fell when the ladder moved

A worker was knocked off the ladder by a falling tree branch

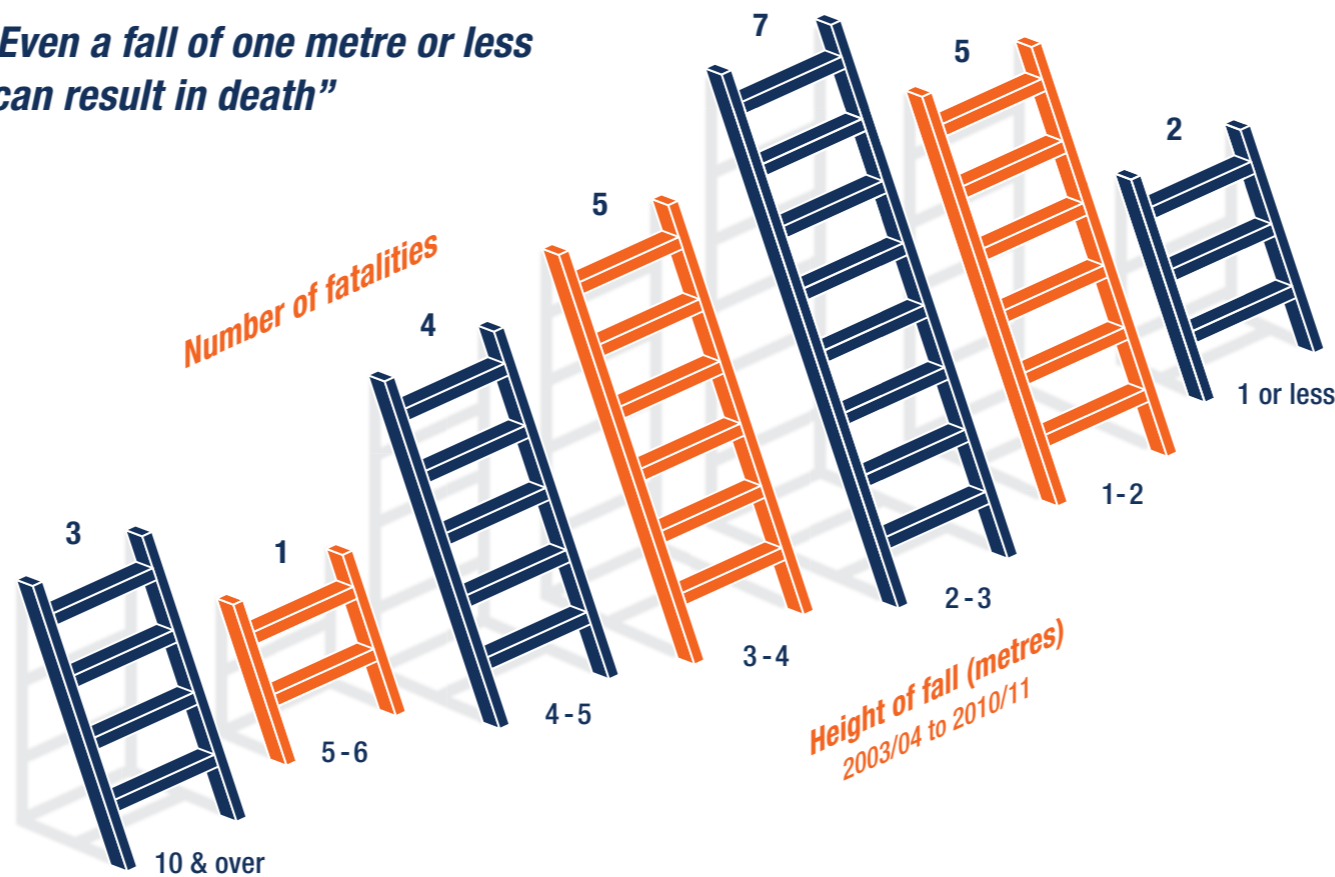
## Do these trades access your site?

Fatalities from falls from ladders occurred in many occupations. The most common were:

**handyperson** (6), **electricians** (4), **painters** (4), **plumbers** (3) and **commercial cleaners** (3).



**“Even a fall of one metre or less can result in death”**

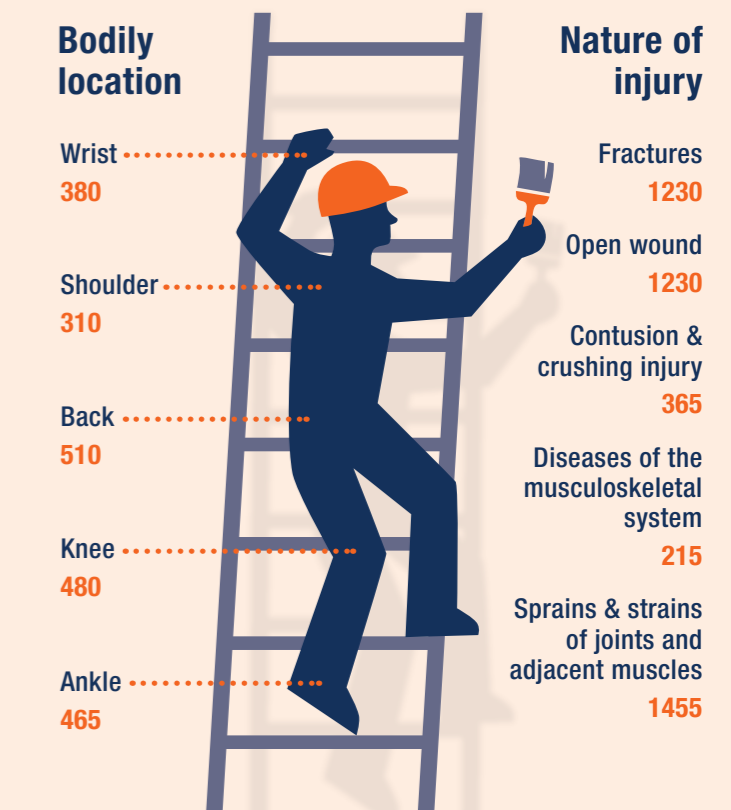


## Serious Injury Claims

In the three years 2009–11 there were 3830 serious claims due to a fall from a Ladder. This is equivalent to 3 injuries each day requiring the worker to be away from work for one or more weeks.



**“Falls from ladders accounted for 28% of falls-related hospitalisations”**



All Information in this document has been adapted from *Work-related Injuries and Fatalities Involving a Fall from Height*, Australia, October 2013. ©Safe Work Australia.