LADDER SAFETY
CHOOSING THE RIGHT LADDER

Always choose the correct ladder for the job or task to be performed.
There are many types of ladders, ranging from simple wooden job-built ladders to specialty ladders used for specific jobs. Ladders may be made of timber, aluminum, or fiberglass. There are three main types of ladders used in the construction industry: 1) extension, 2) step, and 3) multi-purpose.
Keep the following in mind when choosing the right ladder for your job:

- For indoor use, stepladders or multi-purpose ladders are usually recommended. For outdoor work, taller stepladders, multi-purpose, or extension ladders are generally more appropriate.
- Do not use aluminum ladders when working around electricity. Chose a ladder made out of non-conductive material for electrical work, such as when working near overhead power lines.
- Make sure that the ladder is the proper length to do the job safely.
- Chose a ladder that is designed for how you intend to use it. For example, do not use step ladders in a folded and leaned position in place of a straight ladder.
- Chose a ladder that is capable of supporting your weight and the weight of any materials you will be using. See the chart below.

Type	Weight Rating	Duty Rating
1-AA	375 pounds	Super Heavy Duty
1-A	300 pounds	Extra Heavy Duty
1	250 pounds	Heavy Duty Industrial
2	225 pounds	Medium Duty Commercial
3	200 pounds	Light Duty Household

Discussion Leader Duties:
Obtain a ladder that you or an employee can use during the discussion to demonstrate key points.

What this Toolbox Talk Covers:
This toolbox talk reviews how to choose the correct type of ladder.

Discussion notes:
Emphasize the importance of choosing the right ladder for the job. Note that 129 employees were killed in 2005 due to falls from ladders.

Review Questions:

1. What are the three main types of ladders?
   Answer: Extension, step, and multi-purpose
2. What ladders are good to use around electricity?
   Answer: Fiberglass
3. When are aluminum ladders not appropriate for use?
   Answer: When working around electricity

Talk Given By: _____ **Date:** _____

Company: _____ **Location:** _____

Printed Name	Signature