

**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Fort Worth District  
Safety & Occupational Health Office**

# **Lessons Learned**

**ACCIDENT:** Fell when ladder slid

**DATE:** 21 June 2002

**WHAT HAPPENED:** Worker placed a 6 ft stepladder against the wall. He then climbed the ladder and began working when the ladder came out from under him. He fell on top of the ladder hitting himself in the chest.

**CONTRIBUTING FACTORS:** Improper use of ladder

**RESULTS:** Strain left breast

**LESSONS LEARNED:**

**Reference- EM 385-1-1, USACE SAFETY & HEALTH Requirements Manual  
American National Standard Institute A 14.2**

- **Employee should select the proper ladder for the work being performed.**

01.A.03 Each individual employee is responsible for complying with applicable safety requirements, wearing prescribed safety equipment, and preventing avoidable accidents.

21.D.01 The construction, installation, and use of ladders shall conform to the following, as applicable.

- a. Safety Codes for Portable Ladders, ANSI A14.1;
- b. Portable Metal Ladders, ANSI A14.2;
- c. Fixed Ladders, ANSI A14.3; and
- d. Job-Made Ladders, ANSI A14.4.

A 14.2.8.3.1.2 Self supporting ladders shall not be used as single ladders or in the partially closed position.