

# Welcome to the Hard Hat Training Series!



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Welcome to the Hard Hat Training Series. Today you will learn about the important principles regarding ladder safety. We will strive to provide information that will increase your knowledge and make you a better and safer worker.



Ladders can be found throughout every industry and in almost every workplace or jobsite. In fact, you've probably used them without incident since childhood: going up waterslides or treehouses, or to get on the roof, clean the gutters, or trim trees. But they are so commonplace in our lives, it can be and is easy to overlook and even ignore the safety guidelines and warning signs.





On that note, the following is a list of the OSHA's top-10 most frequently cited standards. OSHA publishes this list as a means of alerting the industry about these commonly cited standards. The hope then is that you take whatever steps necessary to both find and fix recognized hazards before they become a problem. Look at where ladders fall on this list, and then where scaffolding and fall protection are. Clearly, there is a problem heeding the rules in place.

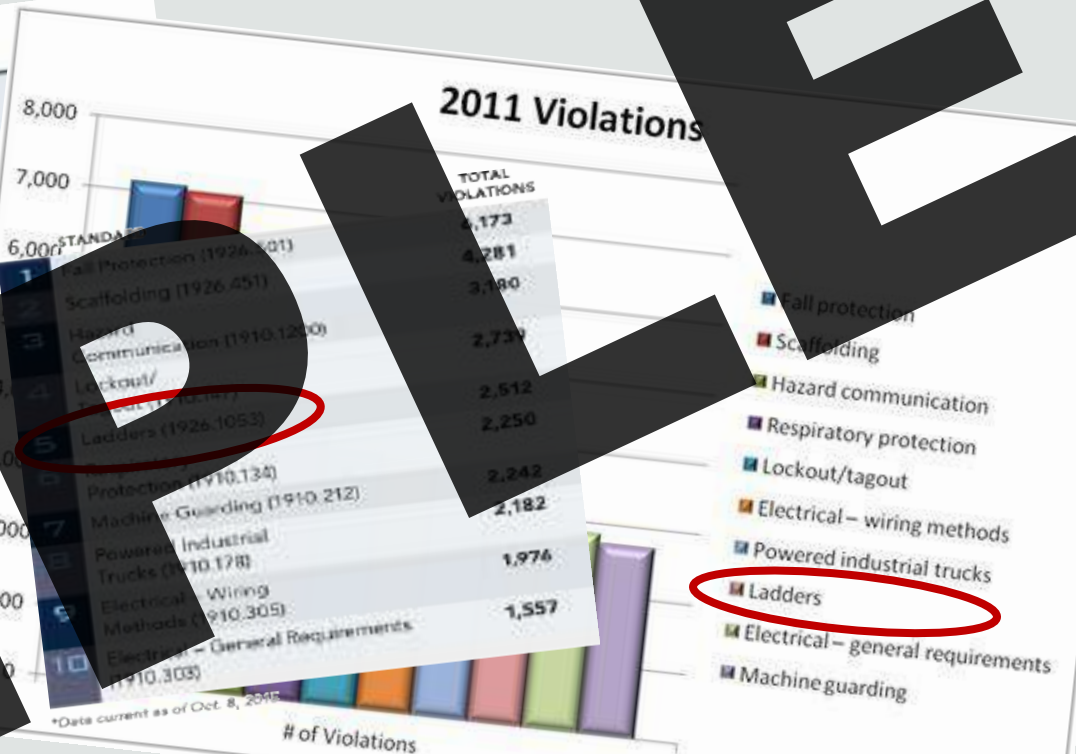


1. **1926.501- Fall Protection**
2. 1910.1200- Hazard Communication
3. **1926.451- Scaffolding**
4. 1910.134- Respiratory Protection
5. 1910.147- Lockout/Tagout
6. 1910.178- Powered Industrial Trucks
7. **1926.1053- Ladders**
8. 1910.305- Electrical -- Wiring Methods
9. 1910.212- Machine Guarding
10. 1910.303- Electrical – General Requirements



2012		STANDARD	TOTAL VIOLATIONS*
1.	Fall Protection (1926.501)	1	6,348
2.	Hazard Communication (1910.1200)	2	4,533
3.	Scaffolding (1926.451)	3	3,282
4.	Respiratory Protection (1910.134)	4	2,688
5.	Ladders (1926.1053)	5	2,447
6.	Machine Guarding (1910.212)	6	2,204
7.	Powered Industrial Trucks (1910.178)	7	2,198
8.	Electrical - Wiring Methods (1910.305)	8	2,191
9.	Lockout / Tagout (1910.147)	9	2,154
10.	Electrical - General Requirements (1910.303)	10	1,715
Total Violations:			29,179

\*Data current as of Nov. 3, 2014



Interestingly enough, these same hazards show up on these types of lists time after time. And year after year, injuries are sustained and lives are lost. Even worse, as far as falls are concerned, the number of violations are increasing. It is climbing the list toward the top. And Why? What is it going to take for workers to realize the task at hand is serious? And dangerous?







OSHA

STANDARDS

29 CFR 1910.25, Portable Wood Ladders  
29 CFR 1910.26, Portable Metal Ladders  
29 CFR 1910.27, Fixed Ladders  
29 CFR 1910.29, Manually Propelled Ladder Stands & Scaffolds  
29 CFR 1910.28, Subpart D – Scaffolding, Walking-Working Surfaces  
1915.72 Subpart (.71 - .77), Scaffolds, Ladders and Other Working Surfaces for Shipyards  
1917.118 & 119, Marine Terminals, Fixed & Portable Ladders  
29 CFR 1926.1053, Ladders  
29 CFR 1926.1053, Subpart X – Stairways & Ladders

ANSI ASME

OSH Act of 1970  
29 CFR 1926.21, Training

These are some of the main standards concerning the safe use of ladders. Many industries have additional standards, as do some states. It is your responsibility to know all federal, state/provincial, local and company rules that apply to your equipment and jobsite.

For your information, ANSI standards on portable ladders include the following:

- **ANSI ASC A14.1-2007** for wood ladders
- **ANSI ASC A14.2-2007** for metal ladders
- **ANSI ASC A14.5-2007** for reinforced plastic ladders
- **ANSI ASC A14.7-2011** Safety Requirements for Mobile Ladder Stands and Mobile Ladder Stand Platforms.

These standards detail the various materials, construction requirements, test requirements, usage guidelines and labeling/marketing requirements.

# ANSI

*American National Standards Institute*



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Additionally, because there are so many different types of ladders, we cannot possibly cover every single model, make, and use. It is also your responsibility to make sure that you receive job specific training when using unfamiliar equipment or when asked to carry out a new task.





## Training

No matter the equipment, it is common to hear workers and even employers ask ‘where does it state operators need to be trained?’ Can’t an operator also be deemed “qualified” based on experience? 29 CFR 1926.21(b)(2), the employer responsibility section on safety training and education for the construction industry, states that “the employer shall instruct each employee in the recognition and avoidance of unsafe conditions and the regulations applicable to his work environment to control or eliminate any hazards or other exposure to illness or injury.” The OSH Act of 1970 reiterates this point.



Ultimately, in the case of an accident, OSHA will want to see proof of training. If you cannot furnish that proof and can, instead, only offer up that the worker came into the job with 20 years of experience, you will most likely be in trouble. Experience may qualify an operator, but very rarely will experience alone suffice. A history of operating for any given amount of time does not necessarily mean the operator knows how to operate safely and competently.



### Did you know?

OSHA 1926.20(f)(2) states that the employer:

“must train each affected employee in the manner required by the standard, and each failure to train an employee may be considered a separate violation.”





So there is just no getting around this one fact: every worker must receive training prior to using ladders on their own. Requirements for refresher training are also very specific.

### Did you know?

Regulations specify that an operator **must** take a refresher course if any of the following apply:

- The operator is observed operating the equipment in an **unsafe** manner (e.g., no seat belt, reckless driving, etc.)
- The operator is involved in an **accident** **or** a **near miss**
- The operator received a **poor evaluation** for performance
- The operator is required to **use a different type of equipment** **or** **attachment**
- Workplace conditions have changed

Additionally, regulations state that it is the employer who is responsible to determine the frequency of refresher training.





## Did you know?

Regulations specify that an operator *must* take a refresher course if any of the following apply:

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- Workplace conditions have changed

Additionally, outside of that, 1926.64(g)(2) states that “The employer shall determine the appropriate frequency of refresher training.”

It’s important to note the last two conditions for refresher training. This term “type” also causes a lot of confusion, especially because ladder types can be harder to differentiate due to how similarly they function. Generally speaking, though, by “type” OSHA means portable ladder vs. fixed ladder vs. A-frame vs. non-self-supporting, etc. Can you think of any other differences that might make a ladder a different type, thus requiring additional training?





OSHA's standard also says that each operator must be re-evaluated regularly to see if they are still competent to work on the equipment. Three years, if not sooner, is a common time frame used. A so-called "free-pass" cannot be awarded based on experience, age, or time on the job. The extent of the evaluation is to be determined by the employer, but should include a written and practical examination that prove continued competency.





Initial training, as well as any evaluations or refresher courses must be documented with the name of the person or persons who taught the class or conducted the evaluation. Although OSHA doesn't require wallet cards as proof of training for workers using ladders, many companies and worksites do require onsite proof that you have been trained. At the very least, in the case of an investigation, OSHA will want to see proof of proper and consistent training (in the way of training outlines, class lists, training goals, tests, certificates, etc.)

Generally speaking, all workers share in the responsibility to ensure that they and their co-workers have:

- Received training by a qualified person.
- Read and understood the manufacturer's operating instructions and safety rules as found in the operator's manual.
- Read and understood all decals, warnings, and capacity plates on the equipment and attachments.
- Performed a thorough pre-shift inspection each day prior to operating the machine.



## LADDER STYLES

# SAMPLE



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