

Safety Topic Step Ladders

Steve Kane
Safety Engineering Group
November 19, 2008

BROOKHAVEN
NATIONAL LABORATORY
a passion for discovery



Proper Use of Step Ladders

- Definition
 - Stepladder - a self-supporting portable ladder, usually non-adjustable in length, having flat steps and hinged back
- SBMS *Walking and Working Surfaces* contains requirements for Portable Ladders

Proper Use of Step Ladders

- General Ladder requirements
 - Wooden ladders may be used, provided they are in good condition and appropriate for the job
 - Maintain ladders in good condition at all times (no cracked rungs, loose hardware, or bent spreader bars, etc.)
 - Ensure ladders are free from oil, grease, mud, snow, ice, and other slippery materials before using
 - Ladders must be inspected frequently
 - Defective ladders must be withdrawn from service for repair or destruction, and tagged or marked as “Dangerous, Do Not Use”
 - Do not use ladders that have been temporarily repaired without evaluation by a competent person

Proper Use of Step Ladders

- General Ladder requirements (cont'd)
 - Ladders must be placed on secure footing
 - Always face the ladder when climbing up or down
 - Use both hands when climbing or descending ladders
 - Do not use metal ladders near electrical equipment

Proper Use of Step Ladders

- Step Ladder Requirements
 - No stepladders longer than 20 feet
 - Must be equipped with metal spreader or locking device of sufficient size and strength to securely hold the front and back sections in the open position
 - Always carried stepladders in closed position
 - Do not use top and the step under top as a step