

Safety Notice - Lessons Learned from Employee Injury

Injuries While Accessing Heights

June, 2008

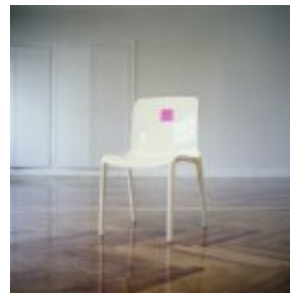
Incident Description

Recently an employee was trying to reach the ceiling in an office environment by stepping on a light table with a glass top. This was not a surface designed to be used to perform work and heights and the employee's foot broke through the glass causing an injury requiring stitches. There have been reports of other injuries from falls related to accessing light fixtures using chairs instead of approved step stools or ladders.

Approved for Use



Not Approved for Use



Potential Causes of the Incident

Investigation in each of these incidents identified that proper step stools or ladders designed for these types of activities were not used.

The following contributing factors were associated with these incidents.

1. Employees were not made aware of the requirement to use only approved step stools or ladders for accessing light fixtures or other items near ceiling height.
2. In some cases step stools were available to the department but employees were not aware of the location.
3. None of the employees involved had received or reviewed a ladder safety awareness topic or a safety topic identifying general safe work practices.

Lessons Learned

1. Never use a chair or other office furnishing to access heights.
2. Use only approved step stools or ladders to access light fixtures or similar items at ceiling height.
3. Contact Facilities Management at 5-3456 to request any repair or service for lights or damage to a ceiling.

Brief safety awareness topics are available for ladder safety training and general safe work practices. Please contact EH&S at 5-1823 or EHS@asu.edu to request a copy.

Questions regarding this incident should be directed to Rob Ott at 5-6219 or robert.ott@asu.edu.