



August 12 — The Right Call Can Prevent the Wrong Outcome

Saw a coworker climbing the ladder to get on the mezzanine as he was moving from the 4th to 5th step I observed he wasn't tied off when there was a cheater wrapped around a upright and long enough to reach the third step from bottom

I stopped and informed him to please step down and tie off.

Co worker stepped down to 3rd step tied off and thanked me

Sometimes the most important safety action...

...is simply speaking up.

While accessing a mezzanine, a coworker observed an employee climbing a ladder without being tied off during the transition between steps. A proper tie-off point was available, but it was not being used. The employee was stopped before continuing and reminded to step down and properly connect their fall protection.

Fall protection equipment only works when we choose to use it. Having a harness, lanyard, or tie-off point available does not provide protection if it is not connected properly. Many fall incidents happen during transitions, climbing, or positioning—not necessarily while someone is performing the main task.

The most important part of this observation was that someone noticed and acted. It takes awareness and confidence to stop a coworker and have a safety conversation. Looking out for one another isn't about slowing someone down or pointing out mistakes; it's about making sure everyone gets home safely at the end of the day.

Hazards

- Working at elevation without proper fall protection
- Falling while transitioning on ladders
- Assuming a short climb does not require protection
- Failure to use available safety equipment
- Coworkers not intervening when they see an unsafe condition

Words of Wisdom

A good coworker doesn't walk past a hazard—they help remove it.

Pause and Think

- Have you ever seen someone take a shortcut because they thought it would only take a few seconds?
- Would you feel comfortable stopping a coworker if you saw them at risk?
- What makes it difficult for people to speak up when they see something unsafe?
- Are your fall protection systems ready and positioned before you begin climbing?
- How can we continue building a culture where everyone watches out for one another?

Closing Thought

The few seconds it took to stop and speak up may have prevented a life-changing fall. Safety is everyone's responsibility, and sometimes the most important thing we do is look out for the person working beside us.

See Something • Say Something • Do Something