



April 2022

*The Texas Department of Criminal Justice
Administrative Review & Risk Management Division*

Safety Awareness

Basic Fixed Ladder Safety TDCJ Outside Pickets

Fixed Ladder Safety

If you feel you have an impairment that would prevent you from using a ladder, notify your supervisor.

Wear clean slip-resistant shoes with heels. Shoes with leather soles are not appropriate for ladder use since they are not considered sufficiently slip-resistant. Additionally, flat-soled shoes are not appropriate.

Wearing greasy or slippery gloves or footwear is not permitted during climbing. Gloves shall be tight-fitting and not be made of loose material or of the disposable vinyl or latex variety.

Steps, rungs, gripping surfaces and platforms must be kept free of oil, grease or slippery materials.

Only one person at a time is permitted on a ladder.

Never jump or slide down from a ladder or climb more than one rung/step at a time.

Maintain three points of contact with the ladder (using two hands and a foot, or two feet and a hand).

Do not try to carry equipment, backpacks, tools or any other materials up the ladder with you. Use the retrieval line mounted to the outside railing.

Face the ladder when climbing and keep the body inside the side rails. Exercise caution when ascending and descending the ladder.

The individual shall face the ladder, maintain a firm hand hold, and use hand-overhand technique to ascend or descend.

Fixed Ladder Inspections

Inspections of fixed ladders must be made to identify signs of rust, corrosion and deterioration. The inspection must include all the major components to include rungs, side rails, supports, fasteners, anchors, backside and front side clearances or obstructions, hatches, hatch opening arms, grab bars, platforms, and side rail extension anchors. Items to check for include:

- loose, worn, or missing rungs, cleats, bracing, or side rails, bolts, or screws;
- corroded metal parts;
- broken or partially broken welds where rungs meet the side rails; and
- water, oil, grease, mud, or other slippery substances on the ladder.

The fixed ladder must not be used if any bolts or welds are not secure or missing or if the joints between the rungs and the side rail are not tight.

Any minor deficiencies of the ladder will be reported immediately to the supervisor and reported on the AD-84 form.

Any deficiencies of the ladder that would prevent safe climbing of the ladder will be reported to the unit safety officer and the facility's maintenance department for immediate correction. The unit safety officer will periodically inspect for deficiencies as well.



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