Introduction:
The American Ladder Institute (ALI) commissions the Ladder Safety Training and Citations Survey bi-annually. The first survey was conducted in 2016. This is the report based on the data collected during the 2020 survey. In addition to comparisons between 2016, 2018, and 2020 data, you will find the following information within this report:

- Types of ladder-related accidents and injuries
- Frequency of ladder citations
- Types of ladder citations
- Preferred methods of ladder safety education

Methodology:
The Ladder Safety Training and Citations Survey is conducted by ALI’s Education & Outreach Committee and SmithBucklin Marketing and Communications Services based in Chicago, Illinois. The survey was disseminated to ladder safety training managers via email in summer 2020 and findings were collected in fall 2020. The survey was 30-questions and received a total of 338 responses.
Findings

Data has consistently shown that less than a quarter of the surveyed organizations experience ladder-related accidents/incidents. While data was unchanged from 2016 to 2018, there was a 6% decrease in the number of experienced accidents/incidents from 2018 to 2020.

Those who indicated that an accident/incident had taken place were asked if this accident/incident resulted in a loss of life. In the 2020 survey, the survey question was modified to include “serious injury.” This addition greatly impacted the results.

### Ladder-related Accidents?

- **Yes**: 18%
- **No**: 73%
- **I don’t know**: 9%

### Loss of life or serious injury?

- **Yes**: 54%
- **No**: 40%
- **I don’t know**: 6%

### 2016 - 2020 Data

- **2016**
  - 24%
- **2018**
  - 24%
- **2020**
  - 18%
Findings

Survey participants were asked what type of ladder-related accidents/incidents have occurred at their organization over the last two years. The options presented to the participants directly corresponded to OSHA’s common citations. Carrying materials and not maintaining three points of contact was cited as the most common cause of ladder-related accident/incidents.

The majority of ladder-related accidents/incidents resulting in a serious injury or loss of life had an investigation to determine the root cause.

2020 Data
Findings

As seen in 2016 and 2018, a significant majority of respondents are aware that the misuse of ladders is among the top 10 most frequently cited OSHA violations over the past five+ years. In fact, the percentage of those aware increased since 2018.

![2020 Data](image)

7 out of 10 respondents have not received any ladder-related citations from OSHA in the past 12 months.

![2020 Data](image)
Findings

More than half of the survey respondents indicated that the quantity of ladder-related accidents/incidents at their organizations has stayed approximately the same over the last five years. Greater than one third of respondents saw a decrease in the number of ladder-related accidents. More than half of the respondents feel that the accident/incidents could have been avoided with the proper training.

92% of participating organizations consider ladder safety training important to extremely important.
Findings

The top three reasons why some organizations believe ladder safety training did not decrease OSHA citations is 1) human error, 2) not enough oversight at the job site and 3) training does not occur frequently enough (see pages 7-8).

Year-over-Year Comparison

- From 2018 to 2020, the percentage of organizations who believe human error is a cause to the continued OSHA citations increased from 30% to 61%. In 2020, organizations were allowed to select more than one response.
Findings

Similar to 2016 and 2018, nearly all organizations use a form of ladder safety training, and the majority do not pay for it. However, year-over-year comparison shows a slight increase in the number of organizations paying for safety training.

2020 Data

Use Ladder Safety Training

- Yes: 97%
- No: 3%

Pay for Ladder Safety Training

- Yes: 28%
- No: 56%
- Unknown: 16%

Similar to 2016 and 2018, 7 out of 10 employees are encouraged to refresh their ladder safety training every year to two years.

2020 Data

- New employees only: 8%
- Every other year: 11%
- Once a year: 62%
- Never/Employees are not encouraged to refresh their ladder safety: 5%
- Other (please specify): 14%

*Annually was the most common response, followed by monthly during staff meetings
Year-over-Year Comparison

- In 2020, 62% of respondents said training refresh was required every year compared to 58% in 2018.
- In 2020, only 8% of respondents said only new employees were encouraged to take ladder safety training compared to 13.5% in 2018.

Findings

Similar to 2016 and 2018, more than 75% of the organizations mandate training and have done so for many years.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ladder Safety Training Mandated?</th>
<th>2020 Data</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>81%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Encouraged/ Mandated for How Long?</th>
<th>2020 Data</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7+ years</td>
<td>43%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4-6 years</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2-4 years</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0-2 years</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I don't know</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Findings

Proprietary programs and LadderSafetyTraining.org are the top two resources used for ladder safety training.

Year-over-Year Comparison

- In 2020, 53% of organizations use ALI's LadderSafetyTraining.org compared to 49% in 2018.
In-person (classroom or on the job site) and video ladder safety training are the top two formats of ladder safety training. Participants could select more than one option.

![Bar chart showing the distribution of training formats](chart.png)

- In-person (in the classroom): 60%
- In-person (on the job site): 49%
- Poster, flyer and/or pamphlet: 22%
- Video (online or DVD): 61%
- Webinar: 14%
- Other: 6%
Findings

Just as in 2016 and 2018, stepladders are the most frequently used ladders by organizations. From 2018 to 2020, there was a 25% increase in the organizations using articulated ladders.

![Ladder Usage Chart]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ladder Type</th>
<th>2020 Data</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Articulated Ladder</td>
<td>49%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stepladder</td>
<td>89%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mobile Ladder</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Portable Ladder</td>
<td>42%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Single and Extension Ladder</td>
<td>73%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

[588x20]11
[65x20]ALI Ladder Safety Training and Citations Report  |  americanladderinstitute.org
Respondent Demographics
More than 38% of respondents were Safety Directors or Safety Administrators.

Respondents who identified themselves in the “other” category provided write-in responses including manufacturing, healthcare, and government.

Two thirds of respondents are employees at a small to mid-sized organization (1-499 employees).
ALI offers a free ladder safety training tool for the proper selection, care and safe use of all ladders, including stepladders, single and extension ladders, articulated ladders, and mobile ladders. Provided by the American Ladder Institute, this training outlines safe ladder practices in all applications, such as construction/painting, building and custodial services, warehousing, power, manufacturing, chemical and petrochemical, oil and gas, and at home.

Learn more at LadderSafetyTraining.org