ALI Ladder Safety Training and Citations Report

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 2018 survey. In addition to comparisons between 2016 and 2018 data, you will find the following information within this report:

- Frequency of ladder citations
- Types of ladder citations
- Fees associated with ladder citations
- Types of ladder-related injuries
- Preferred methods of ladder safety education

Methodology:
The Ladder Safety Training and Citations Survey is conducted by SmithBucklin Marketing and Communications Services based in Chicago, Illinois. The survey was disseminated to ladder safety training managers via email in summer 2018 and findings were collected in fall 2018. The survey was 30-questions and received a total of 498 responses.

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Findings

Less than a quarter of organizations had ladder-related accidents in the past two years and nearly no accidents resulted in the loss of life. This remains on par with 2016 findings.

**Ladder-related Accidents?**
- Yes: 24%
- No: 69.8%
- I don’t know: 6.2%

**Loss of life?**
- Yes: 0.6%
- No: 90.7%
- I don’t know: 8.7%
Findings

Missing the last step and overreaching remain the two most cited issues as causes for ladder accidents.

Year-over-Year Comparison

- Percentage of people citing missing the last step and overreaching significantly decreased from 2016 to 2018
  - 2016
    - Missing the last step: 47.7%
    - Overreaching: 43.2%
  - 2018
    - Missing the last step: 36.1%
    - Overreaching: 34.2%
Findings

As seen in 2016, 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.

Ladder-related Accidents?

| Yes       | 79.3% |
| No        | 20.7% |

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

Cost of Citations Per Year

- $0: 64.9%
- I do not know: 25.2%
- $1 - $1,000: 5.3%
- $1,001 - $5,000: 1.9%
- $5,001 - $10,000: 1.2%
- More than $10,000: 1.5%
Findings

Nearly half of respondents indicated that their ladder-related accidents have decreased over the past five years.

**Relative Frequency of Ladder-related Accidents Over the Past 5 Years**
- Decreased Significantly: 25%
- Decreased Slightly: 15.4%
- Stayed Approximately the Same: 31.2%
- Increased Slightly: 4.5%
- Increased Significantly: 0.3%
- N/A or I don't know: 23.6%

**Accidents Could Be Avoided with Training?**
- Yes: 52.2%
- No: 22.5%
- I don't know: 25.3%
Year-over-Year Comparison

- 6% of respondents received 1-2 OSHA ladder citations over the past year compared to 2% in 2016
- Of those that received citations in 2018, the financial cost was far less than in 2016
  - 2016
    - More than $10,000: 6.7%
  - 2018
    - More than $1,000: 4.6%

Findings

As seen in 2016, 9 out of 10 organizations consider ladder safety training to be somewhat to extremely important.
Findings

Similar to 2016, nearly all organizations use a form of ladder safety training, and the majority do not pay for it.

![Use Ladder Safety Training Chart]

- Yes: 95.4%
- No: 4.6%

![Pay for Ladder Safety Training Chart]

- No: 66.4%
- Unknown: 8.9%
- Yes: 24.7%

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

![Refresh Training Chart]

- Once a year: 58%
- Once every other year: 9.4%
- Never/Employees are not encouraged to refresh their ladder safety: 2.2%
- Other (please specify)*: 16.9%
- New employees only: 13.5%

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

- In 2016, 9.3% of respondents said training was only for new employees versus 13.5% in 2018
- In 2016, 3.8% of respondents said employees were never encouraged to refresh their ladder safety training versus 2.2% in 2018

Findings

Similar to 2016, three quarters of the organizations mandate training and have done so for many years.

- **Ladder Safety Training Mandated?**
  - Yes: 78.2%
  - No: 16.9%
  - Unknown: 4.9%

- **Encouraged/Mandated for How Long?**
  - 7+ years: 32.3%
  - Not sure: 16.5%
  - 0-2 years: 27.1%
  - 2-4 years: 15.1%
  - 4-6 years: 9%

Year-over-Year Comparison

- In 2016, 14.6% of respondents had encouraged/mandated for 0-2 years; this jumped to 27.1% in 2018.
Findings

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

In-person, classroom ladder safety training and video are the top two formats of ladder safety training.

Year-over-Year Comparison

- In 2016, proprietary programs and OSHA resources were the top two resources for ladder safety training.
- In 2018, proprietary programs and LadderSafetyTraining.org were the top two resources for ladder safety training.
In 2018, video surpassed in-person on the job site training as the second most popular format of training. The types of ladders used correspond with the most viewed LadderSafetyTraining.org videos.

The majority of respondents feels that ladder safety training helps decrease OSHA citations.
Findings

The top three reasons why ladder safety training did not decrease OSHA citations is 1) human error, 2) not enough oversight at the job site and 3) training is not mandated or enforced.

Year-over-Year Comparison

- The top two reasons why ladder safety training did not decrease remained the same in both 2016 and 2018. However, in 2018, respondents identified that the lack of training mandates as an additional reason why ladder safety training did not decrease OSHA citations.
Respondent Demographics
More than three quarters of respondents stated that they have insight into ladder injuries at their organization.

More than half of respondents were Safety Directors or Safety Administrators.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Business Owner</td>
<td>5.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contractor</td>
<td>2.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Facilities Manager/Director</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Human Resources Manager</td>
<td>1.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Insurance Manager</td>
<td>0.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Risk Management Manager</td>
<td>2.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Safety Administrator</td>
<td>19.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Safety Director</td>
<td>25.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Superintendent</td>
<td>1.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Team Lead/Foreman</td>
<td>8.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other (please specify)</td>
<td>26.9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Most respondents were in the construction industry with telecommunications, government and education in a close race for second.
Over a quarter of the respondents work for organizations that have a total gross revenue in excess of $5 million.

1 in 3 respondents are employees at a mid-sized organization (50-499 employees).
National Ladder Safety Month

7 out of 10 respondents are familiar with National Ladder Safety Month.

- Yes – 69.7%
- No – 30.3%

One third of respondents are planning to participate in National Ladder Safety Month 2019.

- Yes – 35.1%
- Not sure yet – 54.2%
- No – 10.7%

Learn more at LadderSafetyMonth.com