

IWIF INJURY ALERT

Catastrophic workplace falls from ladders, scaffolding and through construction openings continue to happen much too frequently in Maryland. Note: These are just a sampling of recent severe injuries reported to IWIF and are summarized as a general advisory only. Some of these exposures may or may not be applicable to your workplace.

Ask yourself – what are the catastrophic exposures my employees face on the job? Are you doing everything possible with training, supervision, communications, equipment and policies to keep your employees safe?

Painter suffers leg fractures in fall from 8-foot stepladder

A 49-year-old worker was painting while standing on an 8-foot stepladder when the ladder fell. The injured worker suffered dislocated and compound fractures of the left leg, hip, and heel. He underwent surgery at Shock Trauma.

> **Prevention guideline:** Working on ladders, including stepladders, presents the constant hazard known as GRAVITY! Remind your workers of these basic ladder safety tips:

1. Always follow the safety instructions for each ladder.
2. Never overreach when working on a ladder.
3. Always maintain 3-point contact with the ladder (ex. two feet and one hand).
4. Never stand on the top platform/top rung of a ladder.
5. Never use a broken or defective ladder.
6. Always place/erect the ladder on a sturdy, level surface.

Pizza delivery driver assaulted

A 34-year-old worker was assaulted while delivering pizza. He suffered a serious brain injury and was taken to Shock Trauma.

> **Prevention guideline:** Employers in the food delivery business must always encourage and allow their drivers to follow their instincts, refuse service and leave an area if they don't feel safe. Drivers must pay attention to their surroundings and be aware at all times. They must be especially cautious at nighttime and in high crime areas. They should alert police if they have been called to an abandoned building. They should never arrange to "meet a customer" somewhere other than a valid residence or place of business. Drivers must stay in phone contact with the employer/dispatcher at all times.

Worker falls two stories through a duct vent opening


The 45-year-old construction worker fractured both ankles and injured his back.

> **Prevention guideline:** All construction floor or roof openings larger than 2 inches (skylight openings, stairwell openings, vent openings, etc.) should have a weight-bearing covering or be protected with a secure guardrail.

Worker suffers partial arm amputation

A 30-year-old worker suffered a serious arm injury when his clothing was caught in machinery, pulling his arm into an auger. The injured worker was taken to Union Memorial Hospital with a partial amputation.

> **Prevention guideline:** Employers must provide workers with instruction and training in safe work procedures before assigning them to operate, clean, service, maintain, or repair machinery/equipment. Always turn off the power and lockout the power source to machinery, conveyor belts, etc., and allow for the equipment to be de-energized before attempting repair work or to un-jam the equipment. Workers must not wear loose or baggy clothing, jewelry/watches, etc., around moving machinery. Workers who operate machinery must also keep long hair secured under a cap or hardhat.

 Read more injury alert updates at iwif.com under loss control services/injury alerts.

This alert information is an advisory only. The injuries described here and the prevention guidelines are general in nature and may not cover all details of the incident or specific safety information. It may not list all advisory hazards. IWIF assumes no responsibility for identification or correction of conditions identified as hazardous. Safety and health remain your responsibility.