

Ladder Safety

Safety Short By Lee Olsen, United Ag Service Safety Director

It's that time of the year that we get our ladders out for many different tasks. The gutters need cleaned, Christmas lights need strung, Equipment needs cleaned before winter shedding, bins need to be checked, trees trimmed, and the list goes on. Before using your ladder check it over for bent or broken rungs, condition of the feet, and overall integrity of the ladder. When using an extension ladder be aware of overhead power lines, tree branches and other overhead obstacles. Never place a ladder on an unstable base, clean any oil or grease off the rungs to prevent slipping. Remember the 1 to 4 rule, position the base of the ladder away from the wall approximately $\frac{1}{4}$ the length of the ladder. Always face the ladder when climbing up or down, and always stay below the third rung. If you are working over a door that opens towards the ladder, block it, lock it, or guard it.

If you are using a step ladder, check the spreader for integrity, and again check it over carefully for broken or cracked rungs. Never stand on the top rung or on the very top of the step ladder. Always carry tools in a belt or in a bucket with a rope attached and pull it up after yourself.

Every year many people are injured or die from poor ladder safety. We want all our patrons to be able to enjoy the coming holidays with their families and friends, and look forward to many years with your friends here at United Ag. Remember SAFETY STARTS WITH YOU!!!