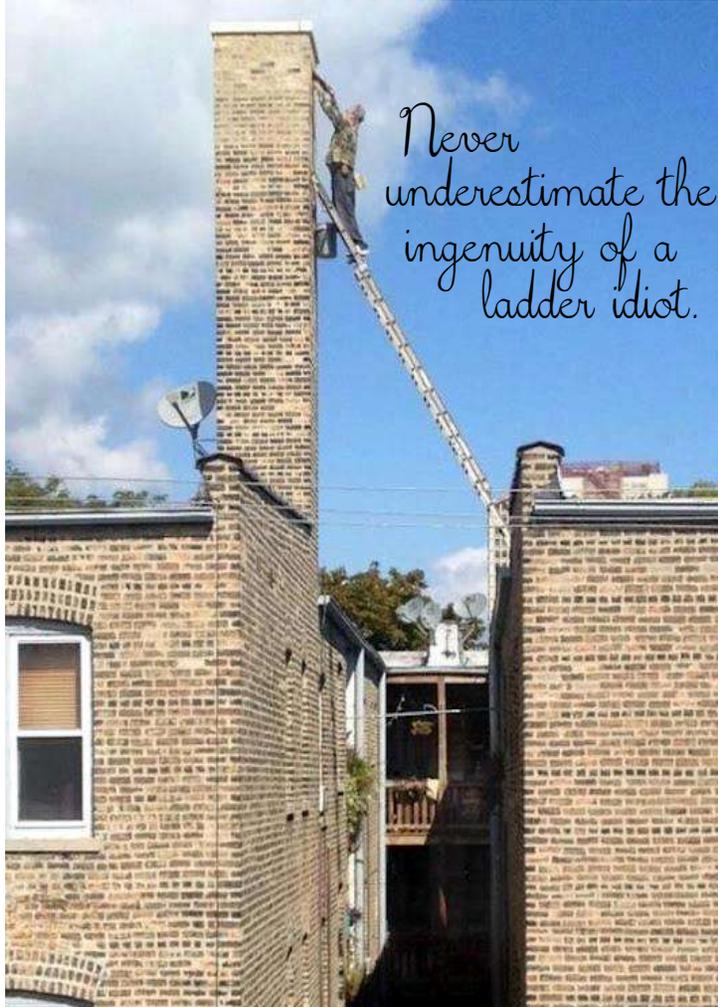


Toolbox Talks

Idiots on Ladders Part 1

The Ladder Association in the UK came up with an interesting competition, namely "Who's the biggest idiot on a ladder?" People submitted their entries for the worst uses or most dangerous uses for ladders & people voted which was the worst or most dangerous.

This was the winner:



Never underestimate the ingenuity of a ladder idiot.



Noticed by one of our own staff - exactly how not to do this.



Small mercies - this worker isn't much safer for being a rung down from the top.



This gardener paid a fine for his trouble, after this picture caught everyone's eye online in July.



We can only guess he's red faced up there.



Took us a second to spot that there was more than one ladder in this one. Incredible.



This one surely comes close to defying physics.



The Better Tax page showed us this picture, which speaks for itself....



How many safer ways are there of doing this...?

Toolbox Talks

Idiots on Ladders Part 2

More Contest Entries:



Teamwork isn't always the best solution...



We think this contraption used to be a ladder...

All information found at nationalsafety weblog.com & the UK Ladder Association



Another one that speaks for itself.



The Better Tax page showed us this picture, which speaks for itself....



This picture was only taken in October.



Took us a second to spot that there was more than one ladder in this one. Incredible.



This one has been doing the rounds all over the internet.



A little help from friends.



Zoom-in not even really required to spot the idiocy.



Another spot-all-the-problems picture.

The Story Behind the Competition:

Beginning on September 1st, the Ladder Association welcomed submissions from the public of the worst uses of ladders they could find. The competition, which aimed to shame dangerous ladder users into changing their ways, then offered people the chance to vote on Facebook to decide which picture was the worst.

The clear winner, with over 30% of the vote, showed a worker reaching up to the top of a chimney with a gaping fall directly below him. Not only could the fall have killed him, but one commenter pointed out that his ladder still did not reach high enough to keep him from stretching upwards.

To top the situation off, he also had a bucket wedged between the ladder & the wall it was resting against. The Ladder Association is now looking into the background of the picture in an attempt to identify the man & offer him the training he obviously needs, assuming he has survived to benefit from it.

In second place came a picture taken earlier this year, showing a gardener with one foot on the rung of his ladder & the other on a tree branch, while he brandished a chainsaw at the tree's other branches without protective clothing or a harness. The picture originally came from a news story in the Lincolnshire Echo, which reported that he was fined a total of £6,000 for his ladder idiocy. The photo only won around 14% of the vote but took off on Facebook as it was shared & commented on by even more people than the winner.

Cameron Clow, Chairman of the Ladder Association, said: "This competition was all about raising awareness & as such it was run alongside the Ladder Exchange, which offers people & businesses the chance to trade in unsafe ladders for new, compliant ones. We wanted to show together two of the biggest dangers in the workplace – people using their ladders in an unsafe way, & people using equipment that is unfit for purpose.

"Ladders are arguably the most common type of equipment used for work at height – it is estimated that three million are in use in the UK alone. Reported ladder accidents have fallen by over 30% over the last 10 years, but more clearly needs to be done. We are pleased at the response the competition received, with people making sure to pull out their cameras whenever they saw dangerous ladder use, but it is also a worrying sign of how common this kind of unsafe activity is."

38 pictures were submitted throughout the contest from around the globe, with one picture of a ladder perched precariously on an unsafe mobile access tower being traced back to Mexico. While it is already known that falls from height are the number one cause of death at work, the number & variety of the pictures are startling evidence that dangerous ladder use is occurring daily. With the competition now over, the completed Idiots on Ladders album can be found on the Ladder Association Facebook page at www.facebook.com/ladderassociation.

Toolbox Talks

Idiots on Ladders Part 3

Even More Entries:



Nerves of steel?



A powered ladder? Published in October's Cranes & Access.



Looks more like a platforming game than a good day's work.



Bonus points for unsafe ladder use on an unsafe scaffold.



Not everyone has lots of personal protection equipment, but most people have shoes...



We're amazed how many examples of this kind of thing we've been sent.

& Still More Entries:

Toolbox Talks Idiots on Ladders Part 4



A new contender for worst use of a vehicle in these pictures.



From Vertikal.net, slightly less than standard ladder use.



A pickup truck - one way of getting up an extra couple of feet?



Celebrating the end of the Idiots on Ladders campaign with this brilliant picture.



Thanks to Premier Vehicle Care Ltd for this piece of ladder use on a pavement outside a doorway.



Pushing off of the wall doesn't count as one of your three points of contact.