



OUTDOOR ADVERTISING CHALLENGES

Outdoor Advertising (Billboard) industry employees encounter the following unique fall hazards:

- Narrow platforms (walking working surfaces) that range from 10 to more than 100 feet high. Many structures have multi-level platforms front and rear. One hundred per cent fall protection must be maintained while climbing between platforms.
- Permanently installed (fixed) ladders for access that do not have cages are required in industry. OSHA has granted a variance to this industry from the OSHA standard requiring cages on fixed ladders provided employers meet certain requirements (see OSHA Instruction STD 01-01-014, Jan. 26, 1993)
- Frequent use of extension ladders to access platforms.

FALL PROTECTION ANCHOR POINTS

Recognized and tested anchor points on outdoor structures include the following:

- Safety cables installed on working platforms that are attached to structural members supporting the platform.
- Hook ladders and Shepherd Hooks that can be lifted up to the platform and hooked over the

- structure top. These devices have been successfully tested as anchors
- Bolt in D-Rings (as illustrated above) strategically placed to allow 100 % tie-off during transition

GOOD PRACTICES FOR CLIMBING

- Maintain 3 fixed ladder contact points (2 hands and 1 foot or 1 hand and 2 feet.)
- Have both of your hands free of tools and material when ascending or descending the ladder. Use a bucket or tool bag to raise tools to the platform.
- Use an 18 inch rest lanyard (this is not for fall protection). This allows you to hook to the fixed ladder and rest if fatigue sets in.
- If anchor devices are installed, they must be used and properly maintained.
- Wear shoes with full heels and non-slip soles.

QUALIFIED CLIMBERS

- Employees who climb fixed ladders must be “qualified climbers” which includes the physical capability to perform the climbs safely and the ability to work from heights.
- Employees must be trained in recognizing fall hazards, use of ladders and aerial lifts, proper use of harnesses and lanyards, proper use of hook ladders and other anchor points, and inspection procedures.

Through the OSHA and Lamar Outdoor Advertising Alliance, Lamar developed this fact sheet for informational purposes only. It does not necessarily reflect the official views of OSHA or the U.S. Department of Labor. Sep. 2011.