

## Ladders for General Industry

### Scenario – Answer Key

#### What are the issues?

- No ladder inspection.
- Misuse of a stepladder.
- Not having his hands free to climb the ladder.

#### What went right?

- Devon realized he needed to use a ladder instead of simply climbing on the machine.

#### What did Devon do wrong?

- He did not inspect the ladder before using it at the start of the shift.
- He did not properly set up the stepladder so it was self-supporting with the spreaders locked in position to keep the ladder open.
- He did not have his hands free to grasp the ladder while climbing.

#### What do you think should happen next?

- The ladder should be inspected for damage before anyone is allowed to use it again.
- Devon should have refresher training on how to inspect, set up, and use the stepladder.
- Devon should be provided with a tool belt or backpack to carry tools while climbing up or down a ladder.
- The machine should be evaluated to determine if additional catwalks or fixed ladders are needed so operators have safe access to all areas they must monitor.



## Training tips

Wrap up the session by covering these rules for proper ladder use:

- Ladders must be used only for their designed purpose.
- Ladders must be inspected before use on each shift they're used, and more frequently as necessary.
- To set up stepladders, make sure spreaders and locking devices are properly engaged.
- Use at least one hand to grasp the ladder when climbing up and down. Have one hand and two feet, or two hands and one foot on the ladder at all times as you climb. This is what is known as maintaining three points of contact.
- Use a tool belt or back pack to carry items on the ladder or hoist them up to you after you're done climbing.

## Questions you could ask:

Should Devon have inspected the ladder? Ladders must be inspected before their first use on each shift.

Should Devon have known that stepladders are to be set up so they are fully opened with the spreaders locked?

Stepladders are not designed to be used by leaning them against a support.

Should Devon have noticed the base of the stepladder was unstable? The base of the rails on a stepladder are cut at an angle so they are flat to the floor when the ladder is fully opened. Devon would have been able to see that the base of the stepladder was not flat to the floor.

Should Devon have had the IR thermometer gun in his hand while climbing up and down? Devon wasn't able to firmly grasp the ladder while holding the tool. He should have secured it in a tool belt or backpack while climbing.

