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INCIDENT ALERT

A carpenter foreman was working installing concrete forms overhead. He had chosen to place an 8 foot tall step ladder on an uneven dirt surface to access the work area. He was climbing the ladder to install a 5 ½ foot aluminum beam when the ladder tipped. He jumped from the ladder from about the 4th step and his right foot landed on a concrete footing adjacent to his work area. He felt pain in his foot and was transported to a medical facility where he was diagnosed with a fracture. He was treated and released to restricted duty.

LESSONS LEARNED

Several issues were identified during the incident investigation. First, it is never a good practice to place a step ladder on an uneven surface. Second, a task planning effort would have required the worker to inspect the area and identify the hazards. No task planning effort was made. The contractor re-emphasized their ladder safety expectations with the work crew. They also directed that ladders not be set up on an unstable surface. Both of these steps, along with implementing task planning, should minimize the potential for this type of injury to reoccur.

ACTION ITEMS

1. Talk with your contractor about ladder safety and ask to see their ladder safety program. Ask how they assure that all subcontractor employees are trained and how they are assured all employees are adhering to their safety requirements.

2. Watch for situations that could result in a similar injury. Are workers using ladders on your project? Are they set on stable surfaces? Are workers carrying loads up and down ladders? Have the work crews developed task plans and is ladder safety addressed in those plans?

3. Share this Incident Alert with your contractor and ask them to share it with their workers.

Distribution:
All CPO Staff