# Ladder Safety — Landscaping Stats and Facts

## **FACTS**

Primary hazards and types of injuries associated with ladder use in landscaping.

## Hazards and Types of Injuries

## 1. Falls from Height

- Improper Ladder Use: Many injuries occur due to improper ladder use, such as using the wrong type of ladder, not securing the ladder properly, or overreaching while on the ladder.
- Unstable Surfaces: Placing ladders on uneven or unstable surfaces increases the risk of falls.

#### 1. Structural Failure

- Damaged Equipment: Using damaged ladders can lead to structural failure.
- Overloading: Exceeding the ladder's weight capacity leads to structural failure.

#### 1. Electrical Hazards

 Contact with Power Lines: Aluminum ladders, in particular, can conduct electricity, posing a significant hazard if they come into contact with live wires.

## 1. Musculoskeletal Injuries

- Repetitive Strain: Climbing and descending ladders can lead to repetitive strain injuries.
- Carrying Heavy Loads: Carrying tools or materials while climbing ladders can strain muscles.

## 1. Slip and Fall Hazards

• Wet or Icy Rungs: Ladders in wet or icy conditions can become slippery, increasing the risk of slipping and falling.

# **STATS**

- Each year, there are more than 164,000 emergency roomtreated injuries and approximately 300 deaths caused by falls from ladders in the USA.
- Falls from ladders account for about 20% of all fall injuries, making them a major contributor to fall-related incidents in various industries, including landscaping.
- Among landscape workers, an estimated 81% of fall injuries treated in hospital emergency rooms involve a ladder. Additionally, nearly two-fifths of work-related fatal falls involve falls from roofs or ladders.
- In Ontario Canada alone, approximately 8,300 individuals sought emergency medical care following ladder falls in one year, with 1,231 requiring overnight hospitalization due to their injuries.
- Ladders are involved in about 2% of all occupational accidents in industrialized countries, indicating that approximately one in every 2000 workers will experience a serious injury related to ladder use each year.