

Picture This! In Case of Drowning Emergency, Find Knife to Cut Rope

Here's an example of having an object designed to save lives that may be useless because it isn't easily accessible. The object in this case is a rescue ring that can't be used without a knife to cut it free.

Picture This! You Can't Get There from Here

What happens to your rig when you underestimate a clearance height?

Picture This! Where's the Emergency Phone, Jack?

You can't always believe what you read, especially when a sign points the way to an emergency telephone that doesn't exist.

Picture This! Human Crane Feeling the Strain

When people don't have the right equipment or are too lazy to go get it, they tend to improvise in ways that are anything but wise. Here's a photo of a man holding a worker upside down outside an elevated window. The strain is plainly evident on his face.

Picture This! You Do the Hokey Pokey And...

Practice makes perfect, or so it is said. But workers who perfect unsafe practices and think nothing bad will ever happen to them are often sadly proven wrong.

Picture This! Human Stepladder Puts Safety Out of Step

How many workers does it take to safely change a light bulb? Apparently more than these three guys.

Picture This! Why Safety Matters

It's human nature to care more about others' safety, health and well-being than our own. But don't lose sight of the fact that people who love you are counting on you to come home safe and healthy at the end of your shift.

Picture This! Step Right Up, Your Injury is Waiting

If the nearest ladder is more than a few feet away, many workers will take the easy way out and use a chair or other object as a substitute. This worker shown here has made the unsafe choice of using stacked milk cartons as a ladder to reach the upper shelf of a rack.

Picture This! What do you Mean I Can't Smoke Here?

Increasingly, smokers are being driven outdoors by tough indoor anti-smoking laws, but as this photo shows, there are situations where firing up a cigarette outdoors isn't safe or smart.

Picture This! Water, Electricity and Aluminum Ladders Don't Mix

Using an aluminum ladder around electricity is dangerous enough but this guy has raised the stakes considerably.

Picture This! A New Take on Turkey Day

It was a new twist on Turkey Day for this truck driver, who had a large bird smash through his vehicle's windshield. He suffered no injuries.

Picture This! Do Sharp Metal and Safety Ropes Mix Well?

A safety inspector visited a church roofing project site after receiving a complaint about unsafe conditions and observed safety ropes running over sharp metal roofing surfaces. Here's a photo of what the inspector saw before issuing a stop- work order.

Picture This! Workplace Adventures in the Land of Nod

If a worker becomes tired enough, nothing will stop that person from falling asleep. If that person is driving or performing other safety sensitive tasks, an unintentional nap can have devastating consequences.

Picture This! So Just Where Exactly is the Fire Exit?

Signs that point the way to safety can be lifesavers during emergencies, but unfortunately, not all signs provide valuable information, as this photo illustrates.

Picture This! I'll Huff and I'll Puff and I'll...

Scaffolding is quite sturdy, but it's no match for Mother Nature when the wind kicks up. Luckily, no injuries occurred when strong wind gusts toppled scaffolding at a construction site in Edmonton, AB, Canada.

Picture This! A New Version of Walking the Plank

We often get away with multitasking as we walk, but not if the floor we're walking on is missing a few key components, such as planks.

Picture This! A Shocking Rat's Nest of Wiring

Amateur "handy persons" often produce shoddy work by failing to realize their limitations. But here's an example of someone crossing the line from shoddy to potentially deadly by performing electrical work they had no business tackling.

Picture This! Boom Could Turn to Bust

This photo illustrates a very dangerous way to use a boom as a work platform, above traffic no less.

Picture This! The Terrible Aftermath of a Question Not Asked

Many workers, especially young workers out to make a good impression, won't speak up when they have a question, for fear of appearing naive or stupid. They need to know it's always better to ask a question—any question—than to risk injury by trying to figure out a procedure on their own.

Picture This! Remember, You Can't Fly!

This photo was snapped in Australia, so it was probably a nice day to be working outside, but this guy is more than a little light on fall protection equipment and other safety gear. One slip and he could face some heavy personal consequences.

Picture This! 'Scaf-fold' Could Prove to be Operative Word

This makeshift scaffold, made from ladders lashed together, screams trouble even before anyone sets foot on it.

Picture This: Makeshift Bucket Lift is a Safety Downer

Here's an example of how not to inspect a roof. This unsafe practice provides no fall prevention nor protection against what would likely be a fatal fall.

Picture This! No Time to Rent a Scissor Lift? No Problem

One of our subscribers snapped this photograph of a makeshift scaffold/ladder combination set up in the box of a pickup truck. It would have been a whole lot easier and safer to rent the appropriate equipment for the job.

Picture This! You've Got to Know When to Scaffold 'Em

This picture illustrates a depressingly common half-measure in construction—the use of an unsafe work platform that provides zero fall protection to workers.

Picture This! Open Excavation Beckons the Unsuspecting

Unprotected excavations and unguarded floor openings result in countless preventable injuries and fatalities around the world every year. Here's a picture illustrating this type of hazard.