

Safety Alert 5: Falling accident

Accident description

- The worker was about to carry out maintenance work (tightening of bolts on a net).
- To access the work area, he decided to climb onto a horizontal belt conveyor running beside the area. For this purpose, he placed an A frame ladder parallel to the conveyor and climbed up the ladder. As he was stepping from the ladder onto the conveyor, the ladder fell from underneath him and he fell 2.3 m to the ground. As a result of the fall, he dislocated his shoulder and sustained a hairline fracture in a cervical vertebrae.
- Causes of the accident: The ladder was missing a base spreader designed to prevent the ladder from falling. The ladder had been set up wrong, which caused it to fall. The ladder had not been secured in any way.

Corrective actions

- New ladders featuring a base spreader will be acquired, or old ladders will be updated with a base spreader.
- Solutions shall be considered for securing the top end of the ladder.
- The possibilities of using elevating work platforms on the work sites will be reconsidered.
- The accident will be reviewed in all units where a similar accident could occur; it is extremely important that employees understand their own responsibility for health and safety. Five seconds spent on planning would probably have prevented the accident.



Accident site and the A frame ladder.



The point where the injured employee fell.