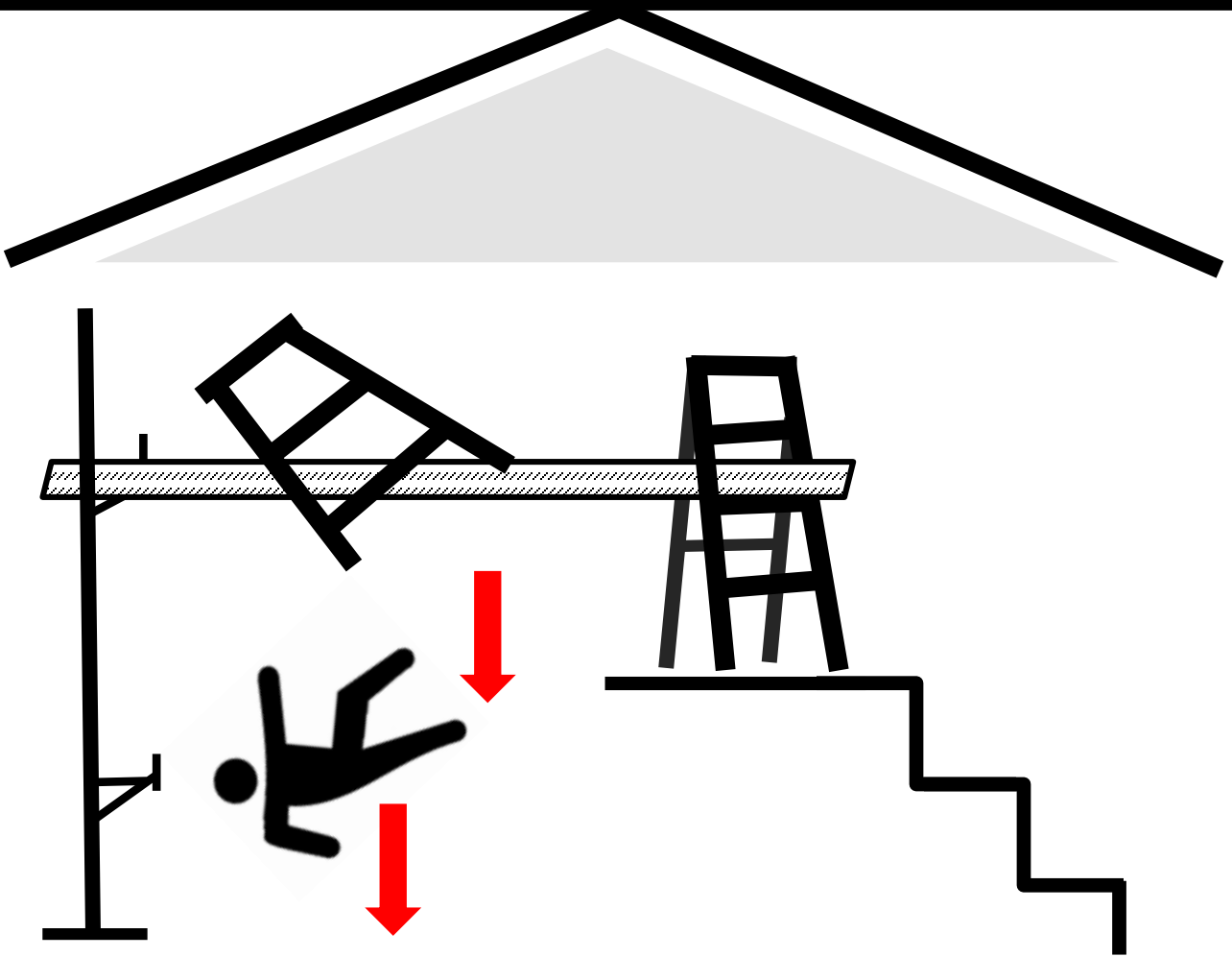


# FATAL HAZARD



- **Inspect equipment before use; consider if alternative methods are safer for accessing a height rather than taking shortcuts**
- **Do not work at heights without proper fall protection**
- **Speak up if you see unsafe work conditions**

### Construction worker falls 20-25 feet from pump-jack scaffold

**INSTRUCTIONS: Hold the guide with this side facing you and the other side facing your crew. Then read the story.**

Our safety talk today is about a 46-year-old siding installer who died after falling 20 to 25 feet from a pump-jack scaffold platform to a concrete slab. He was installing siding in a breezeway of a newly constructed apartment building. To work at height around concrete stairs in the breezeway the crew used only one pump-jack pole, and used the stair landing to support the other end of the scaffold platform. A step ladder was placed on the stair landing to raise the platform above landing height, and the pump-jack pole was raised on the other side. The worker was working alone at the time of the incident. Evidence suggests that when attempting to use a second step ladder on the platform to reach a high area above the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor level, he fell to the ground. He was taken to a hospital where he died the following day.



**So here are some ways we can prevent something like this from happening where we work.**

- Do not begin work at heights before a qualified person has inspected the equipment to make sure it is set up properly. If worksite conditions prevent the safe use of standard methods to access a height, consider using alternative methods and not take shortcuts.
- Only work at heights when you have proper fall protection in place.
- Speak up if you see unsafe work conditions or equipment; do not proceed until it is safe.

**ASK: “Does anyone have more ideas or comments to share?”**

**Pause for discussion. Then see if there are ways to take action.**

**END WITH ACTION PLAN (ideas for what to ask or say).**

- “Have we ever worked on jobsites where there were obstacles preventing us from safely reaching heights?” How did we solve the problem?
- “In those situations, what are some other ways we can use to do this safely?”
- “Who are the qualified persons on our jobsites who can inspect equipment and make sure it is safe to proceed with the work at hand?”
- Discuss a similar situation at your current site.
- Express your commitment to train people for each type of scaffold they might use.
- Commit to follow-up at the next safety talk.