

CALIFORNIA FATALITY ASSESSMENT & CONTROL EVALUATION PROGRAM California department of public health

TWO OLDER WORKERS DIE WHEN THEY FALL FROM LADDERS



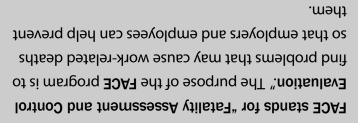
Older workers (65+) have a greater risk of serious injury and death from falls. There are more older workers continuing to work, and they may have medical conditions or balance problems that increase the risk of falls.

No.29

Marco*, a 68-year-old school custodian, fell when he tried to reach a window that was too high for his step ladder. Jerry*, a 72-year-old grocery worker, died when he fell from a straight ladder that was wet with rain. Both were working alone washing windows or restocking shelves when they fell to the ground below.

WHAT WENT WRONG?		WHAT SHOULD BE DONE?
Marco and Jerry may not have known: How to use a ladder safely; That workers 65 years and older are at greater risk of injury and death due to falls.		Employers should make sure workers are trained in the safe use of ladders.
Marco and Jerry may have lost their balance or slipped, causing them to fall.		Older workers should be evaluated by a healthcare provider for fall risk. Those with moderate-to-high fall risk should not work on ladders, steps, and uneven surfaces.
References: NIOSH Ladder Safety: www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/falls/mobileapp.html Preventing Falls in Older Persons: https://www.aafp.org/afp/2017/0815/p240.html		
		report of these (16CA006 & 19CA001) or other cases, and the California FACE Program, contact:

The California Fatality Assessment and Control Evaluation (FACE) program has been investigating work-related deaths since 1992. The goal of the FACE program is to prevent these deaths by informing workers and managers of worksite hazards and how to avoid them. For a complete report of these (16CA006 & 19CA001) or other cases, and information on the California FACE Program, contact: California Department of Public Health Occupational Health Branch (OHB), FACE Program 850 Marina Bay Parkway, Building P, Third Floor, Richmond, CA 94804 OHB phone: (510) 620-5757 CA Relay Service: 711 Please allow at least ten working days to produce this document in an alternate format. Visit our website at: www.cdph.ca.gov/face



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