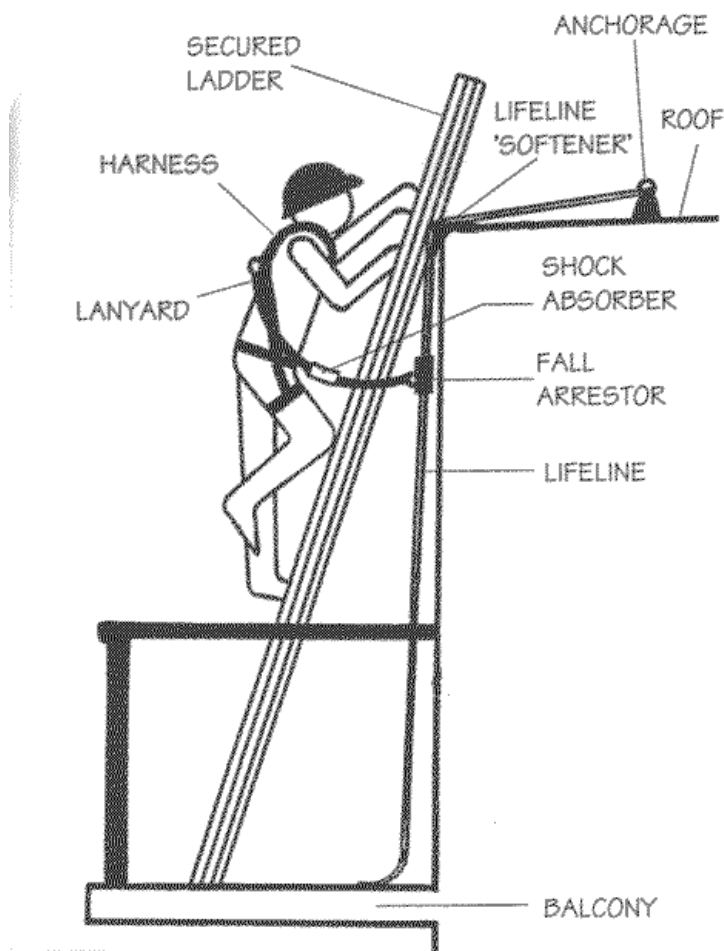


# Work **Safe!** Bulletin

## BALCONY ACCESS DANGER

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A worker was fatally injured when he fell trying to access a seventh floor balcony from the roof of a building.

The job involved masonry repairs on the balconies. The worker was climbing down a ladder to a balcony--a height of 2.54 meters or 8 feet, 4 inches. The worker was not wearing any fall protection. The ladder was not secured in any manner. During the descent from the roof to the balcony the worker and ladder toppled backwards off the balcony and fell 21 meters or 70 feet to the ground.

When it is necessary to work on a balcony or similar structure, access shall be at the same level as the balcony and be from within the main building structure.

When access to a balcony or similar structure cannot be readily achieved from within the main building structure, and could be from a roof, the following safety procedures must be in place:

1. The ladder must be properly secured to the structure.
2. A safety harness and lifeline must be secured to a suitable fixed anchor (tie-back) and used by workers during ascent and descent on the ladder.

Manitoba Regulation 189/85 Section 15 (1) requires that every worker exposed to the danger of falling more than 2.5 meters (8 feet) shall be secured to a fixed anchor or a lifeline so that, in the event of a fall, the worker would not drop more than 1.2 meters (4 feet).