



TOWER SAFETY WEEK

11-15 November 2013



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Ladder Exchange 2013 gets underway



The Ladder Association has launched its second ever Ladder Exchange, after taking the scheme over in 2012. Held between September 1st and December 31st, the Exchange lets people and businesses swap any of their old ladders for a discount on a new one.

Those who want to trade in their old ladders simply have to check the Ladder Exchange website (ladderexchange.org.uk) for their nearest trade-in partner participating throughout the UK. They can then contact these partners, which include nationwide equipment suppliers, to find out how much of a discount they are entitled to.

Previously held for three months, the Ladder Association has expanded the campaign to take in Christmas following the success of last year's Exchange - which saw a 35 percent jump in the number of ladders traded in compared to the previous year.

The Ladder Association's chairman, Cameron Clow, said: "The Exchange will enable us to remind the public of the need to check and inspect ladders and stepladders before using them to put up Christmas lights and decorations, and, of course, how to use them safely."

This focus on home use in December is one of four themes the Ladder Exchange is promoting this year. September's focus was on inspection, with the Exchange website's 'Is My Ladder Dodgy?' section showing how to quickly check whether a ladder needs to be swapped.

In October, the focus is on training - emphasising the need to make sure the person using the ladder is as safe as the equipment itself. The Ladder Association runs a wide-ranging training scheme, offering courses on ladder use, inspection, and as of this year, a course for occasional ladder users who need to know the basics (see opposite).

November's 'Live and Learn' theme will also draw on the Association's expertise, showing the best places to find work at height guidance as well as taking a look at the personal stories of people who have fallen from height.

Cameron Clow added: "The ladder is an invaluable piece of workplace equipment. However, like everything else, some common-sense rules apply. Just remember that if it's right to use a ladder, use the right ladder, in good condition, and make sure you use it properly. If you're in any doubt, just ask a Ladder Association member for advice."

More details can be found at the new Ladder Exchange website: ladderexchange.org.uk.



The return of 'Idiots on Ladders'

Last year's first ever 'Idiots on Ladders' contest, which ran alongside the Ladder Exchange 2012, saw over 40 pictures submitted and thousands of views every week as the public voted on the biggest 'Idiot on a Ladder' of the year.

The contest, aimed at promoting the need for ladder safety by showing the alarming things that go on every day when working at height, has returned for the 2013 Exchange, with a number of pictures already submitted.

Anyone with a picture as good (or bad) as the one opposite, or simply anyone who spots some unsafe ladder work, can post an image onto the Ladder Association's Facebook or Twitter pages, or email it to: michael.fern@ladderassociation.org.uk.

The album showing all of this year's pictures so far, as well as last year's album, is available on the Facebook page ([facebook.com/ladderassociation](https://www.facebook.com/ladderassociation)).



A new step and step stool training course for occasional users

New training course for occasional ladder users

Last month saw the launch of a new training course for occasional users of steps and step stools in shops, offices, schools and the health sector. Working with Steps and Step Stools is a half-day course delivered by approved Ladder Association training centres around the UK and joins the Association's existing courses, Ladders and Stepladders and Ladder and Stepladder Inspection - which last year saw a 47 percent increase in delegates trained than in 2011.

The new course covers regulations, relevant standards and the latest guidance as well as practical issues including potential hazards and storing and handling steps and step stools in the workplace.

Lasting a minimum of 2.5 hours, the half-day course is made up of four assessments: 15 multiple choice questions; fault finding; hazard analysis; and finally carrying, positioning and using steps and step stools. Successful candidates receive a Ladder Association certificate and LadderCard.

More information about the course can be found on the Ladder Association's website.



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