



# Fixed Ladders

**Fixed ladders are ladders with rails or individual rungs that are permanently attached to a structure, building, or equipment.**

**Do not assume a ladder that is permanently attached to a structure means it is safe and in good condition. Fixed ladders must be secured properly, inspected regularly, and used appropriately.**

## Julia's Story

During a renovation, Julia was climbing a fixed ladder that was attached to a four-story office building. She did not have time to inspect the ladder before beginning her climb. The ladder was secured with only a couple inches of clearance from the building, and there was not enough space on the rungs for Julia to properly place her feet. As she climbed the fixed ladder, she lost her balance and fell.

- ▶ **How could this fall have been prevented?**
- ▶ **If you notice a potential safety issue with a fixed ladder, who should you inform?**
- ▶ **Have you known anyone who fell from a fixed ladder?**

## Remember This

- ▶ Tell your supervisor, foreman, or competent person if a fixed ladder does not meet any of these requirements:
  - ▶ There shall be at least 16 inches of space between the ladder and the side rail of any other step, extension, or fixed ladder.
  - ▶ There shall be 7 inches of horizontal clearance space between the fixed ladder's rungs and any obstruction behind it
    - If there is more than 12 inches of horizontal clearance, a landing platform is required at the top of the ladder.
  - ▶ All rungs and steps of fixed metal ladders shall be coated with skid-resistant material.
  - ▶ Every step or rung shall be able to support at least 250 pounds.
  - ▶ It shall not be used at an angle greater than 90 degrees.
  - ▶ If the climb is less than 24 feet but the top of the ladder extends 24 feet above a lower level, it shall have a cage, well, ladder safety device, or self-retracting lifeline.
  - ▶ If the climb is equal to or more than 24 feet, it shall have at least one of the following features: a ladder safety device, self-retracting lifeline and rest platform, or a cage or well with multiple ladder sections and rest platforms, if necessary.
  - ▶ The siderails shall extend 42 inches above the top access level/landing platform served by the ladder.
- ▶ Use both hands when climbing up and down any ladder, including fixed ladders.
- ▶ Use a backpack to carry small items.

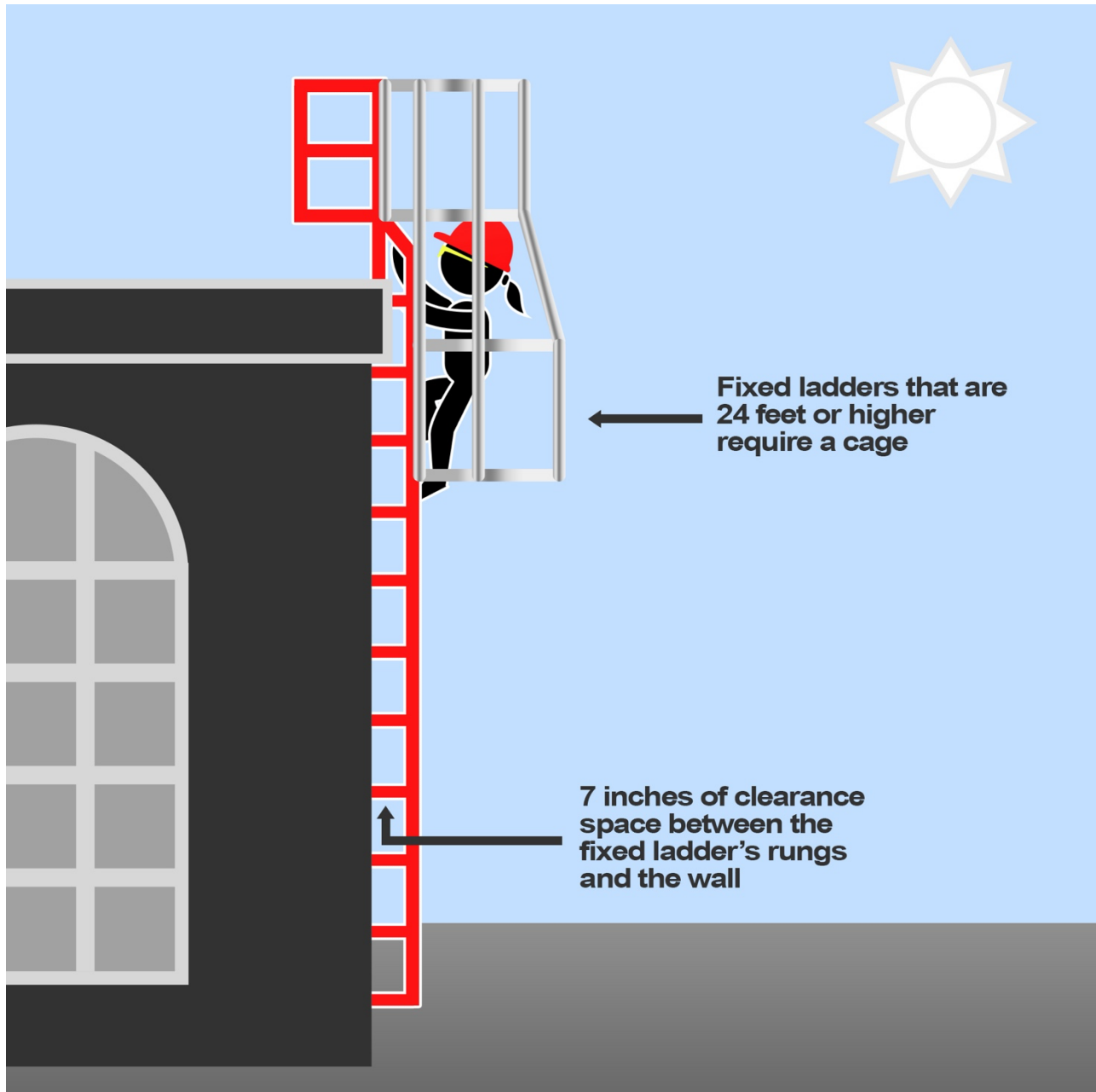
## How can we stay safe today?

What will we do at the worksite to make sure the fixed ladders we use are safe?

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

OSHA REGULATION: 1926.1053

# Fixed Ladders



- ▶ Do not assume a ladder that is permanently attached to a structure is safe
- ▶ Inspect fixed ladders for damage every time you use them and tag the ladder "Do not use" if damaged. Tell your supervisor, foreman, or competent person.
- ▶ Always confirm that there is 7 inches of horizontal clearance space behind rungs for safe foot placement