

# Incident Sharing

## Incident A Good Reminder For Ensuring Proper Ladder Inspection

**Date:** February 9, 2009

**Location:** ExxonMobil Antwerp Polyethylene Plant

**Incident Description:** During a maintenance activity, a technician fell approximately 6 feet from a stepladder when the top ladder hinge failed and the ladder split into two pieces.

**Classification:** First Aid / Minor Injury



### Investigation Findings:

- The brand of ladder was Altrex Rolhouse.
- The ladder failed when the maintenance technician stepped on the 7<sup>th</sup> step up from the bottom of the ladder.
- The technician fell on equipment located below the ladder (a blower) which broke his fall.
- The ladder had passed inspection even though damage to ladder was visual.

### Corrective Actions:

**Make sure your pre-use inspections are complete and thorough before relying on a ladder to support your weight. As a reminder:**

#### Pre-Use

**Inspection** **Each time** a portable ladder is used, it should be visually checked to determine if any defects are present.

- Ladders/Platforms with defects which cannot be immediately corrected shall be removed from service and tagged **DANGER - DO NOT USE** until repaired or replaced.
- Defective ladders should be repaired or discarded. Any repairs must meet manufactures specifications. Ladders needing repairs should be brought to the following location.
  - Ladders, which require repairs, should be moved to a Control Center/Mechanical Shop Delivery Station where they can be loaded onto a delivery truck. When repairs are complete, the ladders will be delivered to the same location.
  - Contact either of the Outsource Coordinators (4-3334 or 4-4504). Provide them with a charge number, unit, location of ladders, and a contact phone number.
  - Discarded ladders must be put in appropriate labeled dumpsters.

**NOTE:** Do not take ladders to be discarded to Central Shop.