



Service Priorities and Programmes Electronic Presentations

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A safety enhancement project on working at height with stepladder in TSWH A&E

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Introduction

TSWH A&E department has adopted to use a new kind of ladder when working at height below 2 meters, and that is the platform stepladder. Supporting-staffs will use it once a week for mainly changing curtains. This stepladder is larger in size, heavier in weight, and more complicated on structure when comparing to the tradition A-shape aluminium ladder. Although it provides more safety when working at height, it has also imposed more hazards when operators are unfamiliar on the handling . Not having supporting staffs to understand these hazards or without a standard operating procedures, this may cause more serious risk of injures to staffs.

Objectives

1. To enhance the safety awareness when working at height with stepladder for supporting staffs.
2. To develop a standard operating procedures (SOP) when working at height with stepladder for supporting staffs.

Methodology

Adopted Deming cycle PDCA

Plan

Stepladder has potential hazards when underestimating the risks. For example, wrongly opening the ladder may cause crush injury to fingers, wrongly grabbed on the handle-bars may cause the ladder to lean over to climber's side, or mishandling on the safety bar may cause head injury to surrounding of others. Supporting staffs may be underestimated on these potential risks of injuries.

Do

In-house assessment form is created for identifying hazards and standardizing the operating procedures. It is created by using "The risk assessment form on work-above-ground" from Hospital Authority Head Office (2017), and a video on "How to use a safety gate" from the stepladder manufacturer Bailey-Ladders (2017).

Visual aided training materials is created in terms of electronic file and a pocket sized procedural photos is created for on hand reference.

A talk is planned to be given to supporting staffs for awareness on the hazards and understand of the SOP. A demonstration and return demonstration will be carried out during the talk.

Check

Assessment form and training materials have been circulated to NTWC OSH team, DOM and WM for comment and validation. They have shown acceptance with positive feedback .

Act

The talk is provided in May 2017 to supporting staffs, they have shown good understanding. They were assessed by OSH sub-committee members each time they use the stepladder.

Result

Awareness of hazards on stepladder has been identified, developing the SOP has been achieved. Although nil injury is reported up until now, continuous assessment is necessary in the future.