

Annual General Meeting in Edinburgh

The Ladder Association's Annual General Meeting (AGM) will take place this year on Friday, 7th November 2008, at the Barcelo Edinburgh Carlton Hotel.

The chairman, Don Aers, will report on a year of considerable progress that has seen increased awareness of the need for professional ladder training, the launch of the 12-page LadderBook and LadderCard poster,



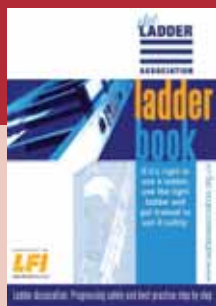
This year's AGM will be held at the Barcelo Edinburgh Carlton Hotel

the introduction of the new ladder inspection training course and even closer co-operation with the Health & Safety Executive. He will also report on the association's robust

defence of ladders and stepladders as invaluable items of workplace equipment for working at height. More information at www.ladderassociation.org.uk

Open book

The 12-page LadderBook has met with universal approval. Taking as its theme "If it's right to use a ladder use the right ladder and get trained to use it safely," it champions safety, training and best practice.



The book includes a foreword by the Health & Safety Executive and is increasingly recognised as an invaluable reference for ladder and stepladder knowledge, information and facts.

For a free copy visit www.ladderassociation.org.uk

Chairman lays down the law

Following a recent court case in which a school caretaker successfully claimed damages against his local authority employer, successfully arguing that its failure to train him in the proper use of a stepladder was a major contributory cause to the injuries he sustained, Don Aers issued a press statement highlighting the link between training, safety and competency, and reiterating his previous call to all employers to address the need for training when using ladders and stepladders.

For the full statement visit www.ladderassociation.org.uk

You can say that again!

Wise words when it comes to ladders and stepladders:

... "It looks like a simple piece of equipment, but people aren't looking at selecting the appropriate ladders"
... "You shouldn't decide if a ladder is the right piece of equipment when you're climbing up it"

... "We all think we can use one, but it's surprising the number of people who are very experienced that go on Ladder Association courses, including the 20-year user, who have come away having learned something new"

Step forward



than 30 minutes? Can you achieve safe ascent and descent and maintain a firm handhold? Consider the loads created by your work activity and their effect.

Equipment: Do you have, or can you get, the right ladder for the job? Is it the right class? Depending on what you're doing, are alloy, timber or GRP ladders the best choice? Is it the right height and type to get you to the work area?

People: Do you have enough physically capable people with the right PPE on site to manoeuvre, position and secure the ladder and, most importantly, are they competent by virtue of experience, knowledge and training?

CONTACT DETAILS

Ladder Association, PO Box 183, Leeds LS11 1AG
Tel: 0845 260 1048
Fax: 0845 260 1049
Email: info@ladderassociation.org.uk
www.ladderassociation.org.uk

The Ladder Association advocates a very simple STEP methodology to identify hazards and assess risks to determine the suitability of ladders for a given task, or series of tasks, at height.

Site: Can the ladder be correctly positioned and stabilised; can you protect other people from the effects of your activities and are the weather conditions suitable?

Task: Consider the duration of the task (or series of tasks) - is it less

Don't let a dodgy ladder shatter your life



The Ladder Association has again lent its full support to the HSE's Ladder Exchange initiative, taking the view that anything that takes damaged and therefore potentially dangerous ladders out of the workplace has to be a good thing for all concerned.

The campaign message is clear: Make sure your ladder is in good condition and don't risk using it if it's broken, damaged or bent. If it is, you can part-exchange it for a safe, new one at selected Ladder Association supplier members while the campaign lasts.

For more information visit www.ladderassociation.org.uk or www.hse.gov.uk/falls/ladderexchange