

# FALL PROTECTION AWARENESS



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- Since 2017, four lives have been lost due to falls from various platforms; only one of these fatalities occurred during a typical fall protection evolution.
- Six out of every 10 falls occur in a ladder well or on a vertical ladder.

## Study's outcome

Naval Safety Command conducted a study of fall mishaps between 2017 - 2023, targeting the following areas:

- shipboard ladder wells,
- vertical ladders,
- unguarded edges, brows, catwalks,
- berthing barge ladder wells,
- falls off equipment, temporary ladders, pilot's ladders, wing walls and shipyard ladders.

In addition to the four fatalities, the data revealed that similar falls occurred before and after these mishaps:

- Falls from unguarded edges - 44
- Falls from vertical ladders - 52
- Falls from brows - 21
- Falls from ladder wells - 540

### **Causal factors**

The study cites the following causal factors:

- Not adhering to general safety standards for ladders, outlined in OPNAVINST 5100.19F,
- Complacency,
- Inattention, and
- Rushing or delaying a necessary action.



U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Zachary Shea



U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Kevin Tang

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*These causal factors alone account for 39% of total falls since 2017!*  
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## Key Takeaways

- Always move up or down a ladder with one hand on the railing, per OPNAVINST 5100.19F.
- Inform a supervisor about any unguarded edges.
- Do not carry loads up or down ladders that obstruct movement or sight, per 5100.19F.
- Exercise caution using ladders in challenging conditions, such as carrying equipment or in humid or wet and slippery areas.

For more information, email:  
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