LJb Engineering
Building Partnerships

FALL PROTECTION SAFETY

Case Study:
Enterprise-Wide Fixed Ladder Risk Assessment

The Challenge

Now that OSHA requires fall protection on fixed ladders that expose workers to a fall greater than 24 feet, this organization wanted to evaluate its existing ladder inventory and develop a plan to address potential hazards before the November 2036 compliance deadline.

The organization needed to:

- Identify all fixed ladders greater than 24 feet to a lower level
- Evaluate fall exposure risks
- Prioritize ladders for corrective action
- Develop a practical, long-term plan for improvements

The Approach

A comprehensive fixed ladder assessment program was conducted across 15 major facilities. Working alongside site safety and operations teams, assessors systematically identified and evaluated each ladder.

For each ladder, the assessment team documented:

- Ladder location and identification
- Distance to a lower level
- Immediate safety concerns
- Recommended corrective actions
- Potential fall protection solutions
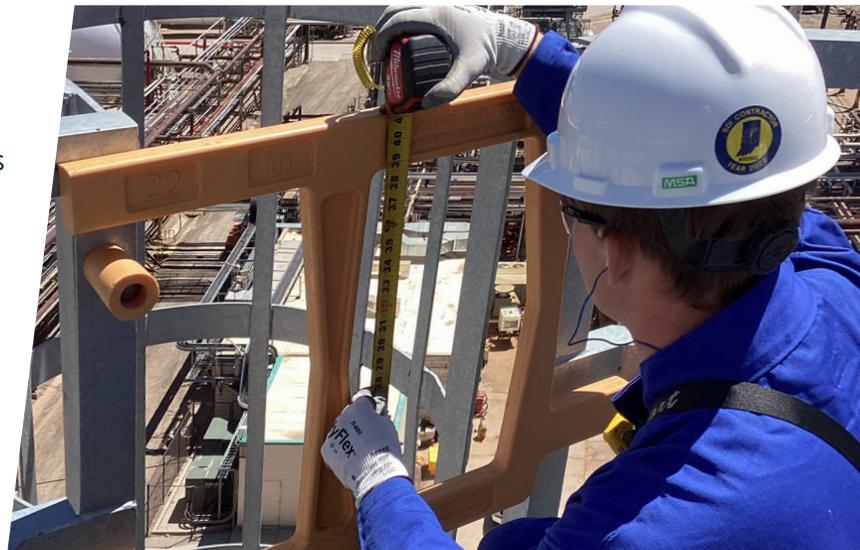
Enterprise-Wide Fixed Ladder Risk Assessment

The Results

The LJB team identified and assessed more than 5,100 fixed ladders across 15 facilities.

PRIORITY 1
HIGH-RISK 248

15% of identified fixed ladders

PRIORITY 2
MODERATE-RISK 500

PRIORITY 3
LOW-RISK 4,415

To guide decision-making, ladders were categorized into three priority levels based primarily on distance to a lower level and potential fall exposure.

Value to the Organization

The enterprise-wide ladder assessment transformed an overwhelming safety challenge into a manageable, data-driven program. With clear visibility into ladder conditions and risk priorities, the organization can now:

- Focus improvements on higher-risk ladders first
- Coordinate upgrades with maintenance shutdowns and capital projects
- Allocate budgets strategically across facilities
- Track abatement progress over time
- Plan compliance well ahead of OSHA's 2036 ladder fall protection deadline

BEFORE THE PLAN	AFTER THE PLAN
✕ UNKNOWN FALL EXPOSURE	✓ 5,163 LADDERS EVALUATED
✕ UNCLEAR COMPLIANCE PATH	✓ RISK PRIORITIZED
✕ UNKNOWN LADDER INVENTORY	✓ MULTI-YEAR COMPLIANCE PLAN CREATED