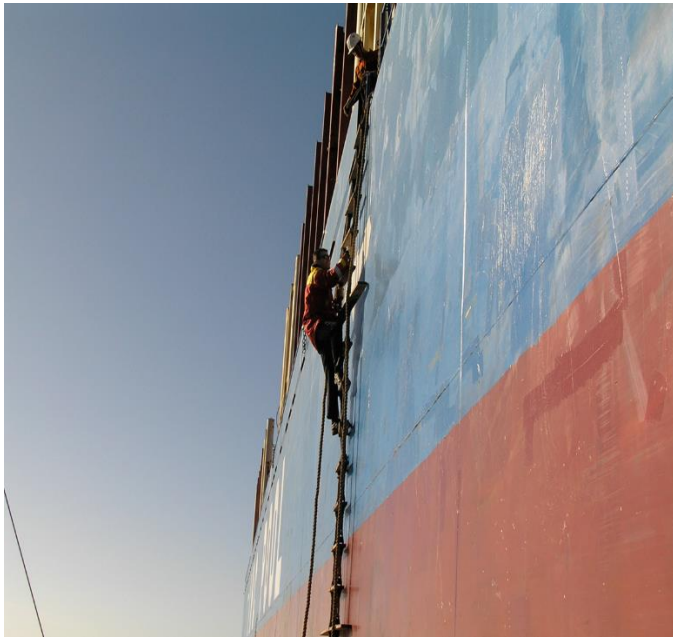




### INTRODUCTION

Safety is critical when it comes to using ladders. From safely climbing or descending a ladder to the condition and securing of the ladder, there are several aspects which must be taken into consideration in order to optimize safety.



Depending on the location of the ladder, there is a risk of exposure to weather, water, cargo which may increase the rate of decay. Therefore it is important that ladders be inspected regularly for signs of rusting, corrosion and rotting. It is also important to keep areas around the ladders, and the rungs and hand rails of ladders clear of debris and slippery substances. The top hazards to surveyors on and around ladders are:

- Condition monitoring and maintenance
- House keeping
- Situational awareness
- Design

Safety training, supervision of maintenance and monitoring schedules, and attention to the design and

rigging processes is important because of the increased risk of injury when falling from a height, there is also risk of a ladder falling and injuring someone standing nearby. Ladders should be inspected before each use and proper securing and subsequent stowing should be practiced under qualified training and supervision.



Things to remember when using a ladder: always inspect the ladder before use for damage and corrosion, secure the ladder appropriately before use, maintain three points of contact with the ladder at all times, movements should be careful and unhurried, and when using a ladder always keep a spotlight on safety!



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