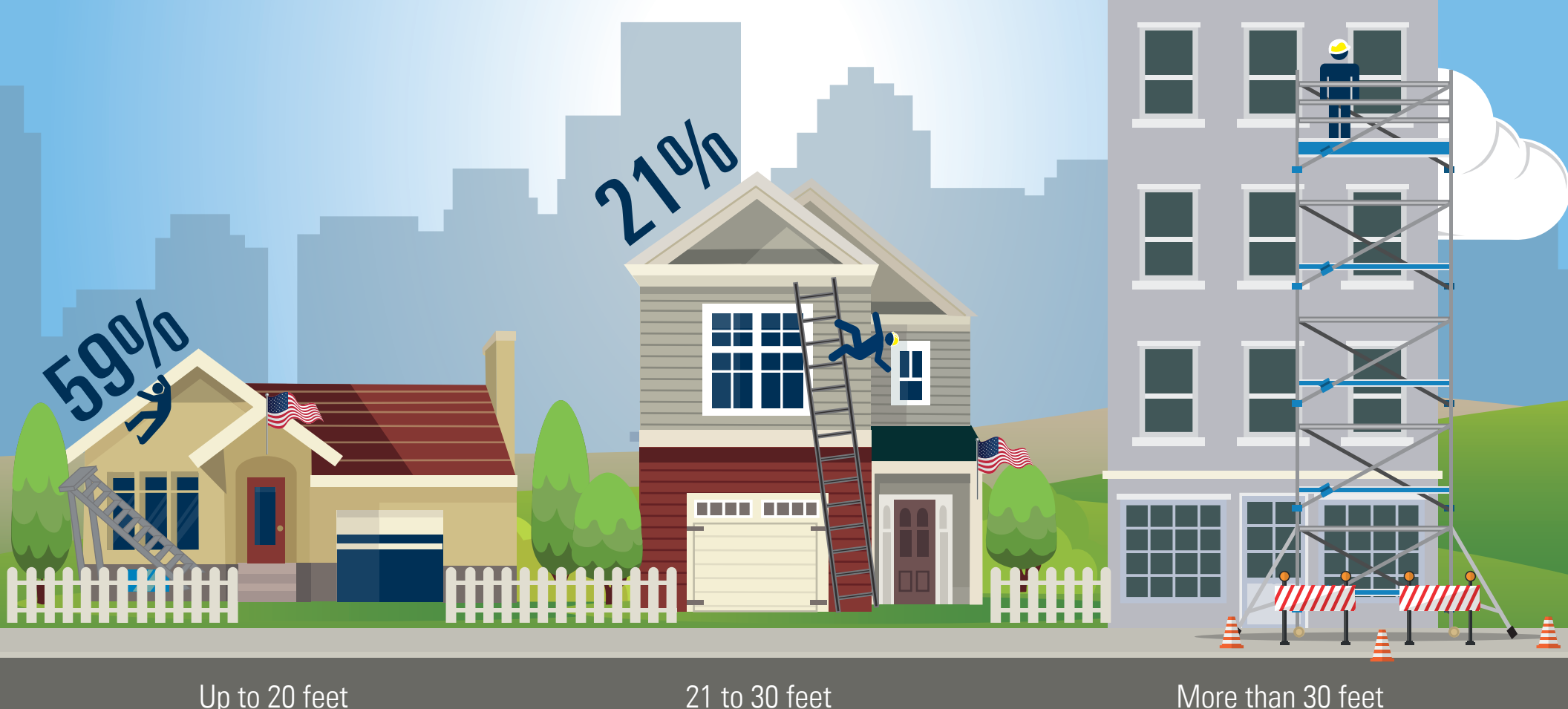


FALL ACCIDENTS LADDERS vs. SCAFFOLDS

Fall accidents by height

Because of the risk perception, falls occur a lot more often from lower heights.

20%



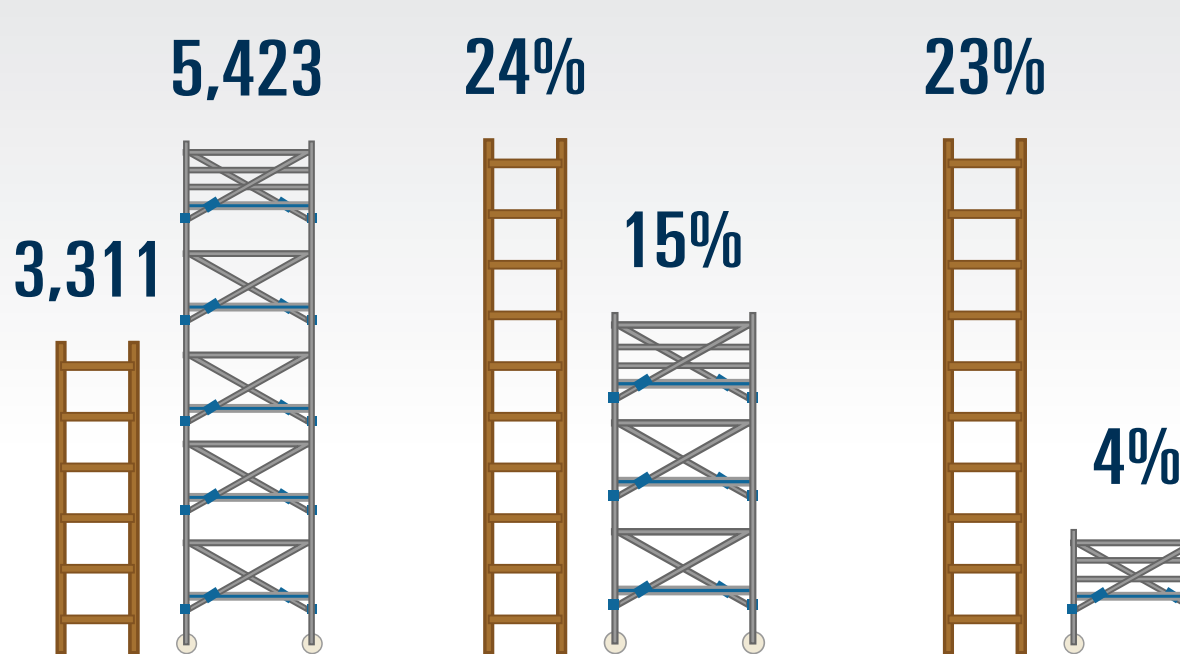
Falls in construction

Although **scaffolding violations rank higher** than ladder violations, accidents involving **ladders account for more injuries**, both nonfatal and fatal.

Number of OSHA violations (2013)

Source of fatal injuries (2010)

Source of nonfatal injuries (2010)



Comparing ladders and scaffolds

The top of a step ladder may **not** be used as a work platform.

A scaffold has a work platform. This provides the user with a **stable** surface to do work more easily and safely.

Ladders

- ✗ Have no working platform
- ✗ Don't have room to stall (heavy) tools and materials
- ✗ Have no clear working height
- ✗ Have no fall protection surrounding the worker
- ✗ Limited horizontal reach
- ⚠ Decrease users' balance
- ⚠ Have Limited foundation/base dimension
- ⚠ Limited freedom of movement and reach

Scaffolds

- ✓ Large working platform
- ✓ Room for tools and materials
- ✓ Defined working height
- ✓ Fall protection surrounding worker
- ✓ Increased horizontal reach
- ✓ Platforms for optimal balance
- ✓ Firm foundation through large base dimension
- ✓ Large surface for freedom of movement

Conclusion

Although **ladders account for less OSHA violations** than scaffolding, **they cause far more injuries**, both nonfatal and fatal. This is largely due to the fact that **law does not require fall protection** on ladders less than 24 feet long, whilst **59% of falls occur from 20 feet or less**. Even they comply with all standards, **ladders have more fall hazards than scaffolds**. So if the situation allows it, choose wisely, choose safety, **choose a scaffold**.

More information about Scaffold solutions and safe working at height: ScaffoldXS.com

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Falls in construction

<http://stopconstructionfalls.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/07/Fatal-and-Nonfatal-Injuries-from-Falls-in-Construction-2013-update.pdf>

Ladders a major cause of occupational deaths, CDC - 2011

<http://www.ishn.com/articles/98551-cdc-ladders-a-major-cause-of-occupational-deaths>
http://elcosh.org/document/3883/d001332/construction+falls,+why+they+matter+to+you.html?show_text=1

Fatal injuries from lower heights

<http://www.bls.gov/opub/mlr/2016/article/injuries-from-falls-to-lower-levels-2013.htm>
<http://www.bls.gov/opub/mlr/2016/article/pdf/injuries-from-falls-to-lower-levels-2013.pdf>

Number of OSHA Violations - 2015

<http://www.safetyandhealthmagazine.com/top-10-large>