

SAFETY ALERT - Injury to foot – BNL 13/8/09

WHAT HAPPENED?

A Technician was placing a display panel on a wall above a freezer and was using a ladder for the activity. When he was dismantling the ladder, he accidentally put his foot on a plastic divider of a store shelf. It gave way and he subsequently twisted his foot. He was taken to hospital where x-rays were taken. He was diagnosed as having incurred a sprain.



Shot shows display panel area and position of ladder



Shot shows operator descending the ladder



Operator places foot on shelf and it gave way, foot was twisted

WHY DID IT HAPPEN?

- 1: The room between cooler and gondolas did not allow for proper positioning of the step ladder. When maximizing the angle between the stepladder and the work area, the technician did identify the shelf as a hazard, but not mitigating it was accepted by him,it was just a 5 minute job.
- 2: Given the limited space, improper equipment was selected; other type of work platform should have been used.
- 3: Accepting the hazard, the worker did not perform a LMRA before descending.

WHAT COULD HAVE PREVENTED THE INCIDENT / LESSONS LEARNED:

1. As part of considering site and job specifics, the technician should have used a different working platform or should have removed or repositioned the store shelving
2. Prior to descending, technician should have re-focused on the hazard he identified and, as part of the LMRA process, taken more care when descending.

**The Last Minute Risk Assessment is a continuous process
because.....Every Minute can be your last one**

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