

SONOCO *Near Miss!*



Date: May 18, 2021

Activity: Jumping out of a top bunk

What Happened:

An employee in a top bunk jumped down to the floor because a roommate had placed clothing, shoes, and other personal gear on the rungs of the ladder. It was late in the night and the man in the top bunk had to go to the restroom. Rather than try to move the items, or wake the others, he jumped to the floor and lost his footing. He was able to grab onto the curtain of his top bunk and steady himself (ripping the curtain from the track in the process), and was not injured.

Why it Happened:

The man in the lower bunk leaving his gear on the ladder was a primary factor. The fact that the man in the upper bunk didn't want to disturb his roommates also contributed. His choice to jump from a height was a judgement error.

Typical Hazards/Causes:

- Poor personal housekeeping
- Not thinking through the consequences of leaving things on a ladder
- Jumping from this height could result in any number of injuries, many of them severe and even possibly fatal:
 - Back injury
 - Head injury / Concussion / Fracture
 - Other limb injuries (hand, elbows, knees)

Corrective Actions:

- On learning of the incident, the Steward had the man checked and reported to our Safety Department.
- He had a toolbox meeting with his team and explained the danger of both leaving personal items laying about, and the more serious act of jumping from any height.

- The team agreed to stow their gear properly, and they also agreed that any time someone is in any sort of situation like this, then he should not hesitate at all to wake the room's occupants so they can help.