SAFE OVER SUMMER

Working at Heights

Hospitals

In hospital environments, working at height happens during routine cleaning or maintenance in wards, corridors, and patient rooms. The challenge isn't the height itself — it's maintaining safety in active clinical areas with patients and equipment close by.

Primary Risks & Hazards to Spot

- Falls from step ladders while cleaning vents or fittings
- Slippery floors from cleaning products
- Moving around patients or sensitive equipment
- Blocked access routes and trip hazards
- Overreaching or using unstable objects for extra height

Discuss / Share:

How do you manage patient movement and public access during tasks at height?

Have you ever had to stop work because the environment wasn't safe?

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Critical Controls

- Use only approved step ladders — inspect before use
- Secure the area with signage or spotters to prevent patient or visitor entry
- Keep floors dry and clear; clean only one section at a time
- Maintain 3 points of contact; don’t stretch or lean sideways
- Never use medical or wheeled equipment to stand on
- Coordinate with clinical staff before starting work in patient areas

Discuss / Share:

What’s your first action if someone tries to pass through your work zone (where you are working at heights)?