

## news & notes

### The Timbermen Fund Claims

The Timbermen Fund claims department manages claims from the First Report to satisfactory conclusion. Please contact The Timbermen Fund claim department with any questions before, during, or after a claim. Our experienced claims staff works to reach the best outcome on every claim. We utilize various tools and partner with leading companies for an integrated approach to claim handling. We believe in comprehensive investigations as well as the pro-active management of every claim. We are here to meet the needs of our members and their injured employees.

Contact our claims department:  
New claim reporting: phone 318/628/8166 or fax 318/628/7084

Or contact our claims staff directly:  
Kala Crowe, Claims Manager  
Lisa Vincent, Claims Adjuster  
Lori Carson, Claims Adjuster  
Danielle Brown, Claims Clerk

Call toll-free at 1-877-628-6730 or fax completed "[Employer Report of Injury/Illness Form](#)" (LDOL-WC-1007) to 1-877-669-9140.

Louisiana law requires that you report a claim within 10 days of your actual knowledge of any injury resulting in death, or in a loss of more than seven (7) working days. If you fail to report within the allotted time frame, you could be fined by the State of Louisiana for each occurrence.

### **Timbermen Website**

Timbermen customers can access forms and safety tools to help improve safety and compliance in their organization at:  
[www.timbermenfund.com](http://www.timbermenfund.com)



# Timbermen tidbits

*May 2014*

## **AERIAL WORK PLATFORMS**

Manlifts and scissor lifts are two pieces of equipment that many workers can't imagine working without. This equipment, if used correctly, provides quick and safe access to work areas that at one time could only be reached from scaffolding or a crane's manbasket. These lifts, collectively called Aerial Work Platforms, are important tools. But as with any tool, there are right and wrong ways to use them safely.

The most important tip to remember before operating any aerial lift platform, is *always read and follow* the manufacturer's safety and operation manual! This information must be kept on the rig, and can usually be found in a PVC tube that's tied to the machine's frame or rails.

Safe Operating Procedures for Both Manlifts and Scissor Lifts:

- Only trained and authorized people should operate the lift. A qualified instructor must make sure that every operator reads and/or understands the equipment's safety and operating instructions. This includes all of the warning decals and labels mounted on the machine.
- Always check for overhead obstructions before driving or elevating the platform.
- Refuel tanks only when the unit is turned off. If battery powered, the batteries should be charged only in a well ventilated area, away from any open flame.
- Prior to each shift a safety inspection should be completed by the operator; this includes both a visual inspection and a function test. If a problem is found, get the lift repaired.
- Elevate the platform only when it is on a firm, level surface. Although many lifts look like a rough terrain piece of equipment, they are not. Their large tires do allow the equipment to access somewhat difficult areas, but once in position they are designed to be out of level only 5° while in operation. This amounts to 10 inches in a 10 foot wheel span. In addition, the lift must have a tilt alarm that activates when the machine is more than 5° out of level.

Scissor lifts are efficient one-direction lifts. They provide a solid surface to work from, but always remember:

- Guardrail, midrails and toeboards must be in place. The toe board can be omitted at the door.
- The platform must be equipped with a mechanical parking brake that will hold the unit securely on any slope it is capable of climbing. The brake should be tested periodically.
- Never use the lift's rails, planks across the rails, or a ladder, to gain additional height.

Unique hazards for manlifts: Manlifts can move in more than a single direction, increasing the risk of mishaps, so it's important to remember the following:

- When ever working out of a manlift, a full body harness must be worn, and properly attached to the basket. A sudden jolt has thrown people from manlifts, before they could react.
- Always maintain a safe distance from debris piles, drop-offs, floor openings, etc.
- Never drive the manlift when it is elevated above the limit the manufacturer considers safe. Each piece of equipment will state what the maximum extension can be while being driven.

Used correctly, aerial work platforms can be priceless, timesaving assets. Operate them without regard to their limitations, and this same equipment will put you and those around you, at undue risk.

## Cheeseburger Soup

### Ingredients

1 lb. ground beef  
3/4 cup chopped onion  
3/4 cup diced celery  
1 tsp basil  
1 tsp parsley flakes  
4 cups diced potatoes  
3 cups chicken broth  
4 Tbsp. butter  
1/4 cup flour  
8 oz. Velveeta cheese  
1 1/2 cup milk  
3/4 tsp salt  
1/4 tsp pepper  
1/4 cup sour cream

Brown ground beef, drain. In soup pan add beef, broth, potatoes, onion, celery, basil and parsley.

Bring to a boil; reduce heat, cover and simmer 10 to 12 minutes or until the potatoes are tender.

In a small skillet, melt butter, add flour, cook and stir until bubbly.

Add to the soup and bring to a boil. Cook and stir for 2 minutes.

Reduce heat; add cheese, milk, salt, and pepper.

Heat until cheese melts.

Blend in sour cream and Enjoy!!

### The Timbermen Fund

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## LADDER TIPS

Do you know there's a killer on this job that you probably meet face-to-face every-day? I'm talking about the common, ordinary ladder. Ladders are involved in many accidents, some of which are fatal. Your life literally can depend on knowing how to inspect, use, and care for this tool. Let's spend a few minutes talking about ladders.

### INSPECTING LADDERS

Before using any ladder, inspect it. Look for the following faults:

1. Loose or missing rungs or cleats.
2. Loose nails, bolts, or screws.
3. Cracked, broken, split, dented, or badly worn rungs, cleats, or side rails.
4. Wood splinters.
5. Corrosion of metal ladders or metal parts.

If you find a ladder in poor condition, don't use it. Report it. It should be tagged and properly repaired or immediately destroyed.

### USING LADDERS

Choose the right type and size ladder. Except where stairways, ramps, or runways are provided, use a ladder to go from one level to another. Keep these tips in mind:

1. Be sure straight ladders are long enough so that the side rails extend above the top support point by 36" at least.
2. Don't set up ladders in areas such as doorways or walkways where they may be run into by others, unless they are protected by barriers. Keep the area around the top and base of the ladder clear. Don't run hoses, extension cords, or ropes on a ladder and create an obstruction.
3. Don't try to increase the height of a ladder by standing it on boxes, barrels, or other materials. Don't try to splice two ladders together either!
4. Set the ladder on solid footing against a solid support. Don't try to use a step ladder as a straight ladder.
5. Place the base of straight ladders out away from the wall or edge of the upper level about one foot for every four feet of vertical height. Don't use ladders as a platform, runway, or scaffold.
6. Tie in, block, or otherwise secure the top of straight ladders to prevent them from being displaced.
7. To avoid slipping on a ladder, check your shoes for oil, grease, or mud and wipe it off before climbing.
8. Always face the ladder and hold on with both hands when climbing up or down. Don't try to carry tools or materials with you.
9. Don't lean out to the side when you're on a ladder. If something is out of reach, get down and move the ladder over.
10. Most ladders are designed to hold only one person at a time. Two may cause the ladder to fail or throw it off balance.

### CARE OF LADDERS

Take good care of ladders and they'll take care of you. Store them in well ventilated areas, away from dampness.

### REMEMBER

These tips on ladders may save you from a ladder that tips.

Don't hesitate to contact The Timbermen Loss Control department or your Loss Control Representative for assistance with your safety needs.