

# ***PROTECTING OUR CHURCHES***

## **Protecting Volunteers who perform maintenance at the church**

Volunteers are a vital part of the church community. Along with serving on the churches many committees, volunteers often help maintain the church premises. Unfortunately, there have been a number of volunteer claims involving falls from ladders, injury from use of power tools, and injury from overly strenuous labor. It is important for churches to provide a safe and healthy work environment.

Below you'll find loss control recommendations to be used at the church:

### **Contractors that donate services**

Should be treated as if they were hired for a specific job. There should be a contract between the church and the contractor and the contract should provide evidence of insurance from the contractor naming the church as an additional insured on the liability policy.

**Ladders:** Should be used with caution. The top two steps on the ladder should not be used. The ladder should be in good condition with slip resistant feet. When someone is using the ladder, caution signs should be posted to make others aware of the work being performed.

**Painting:** Should only be done on ground level. For work on the 2<sup>nd</sup> story or above, a professional contractor should be hired. Painting materials should be kept at least 3 feet away from water heaters or the electrical panel. No "airless" spray paint should be used.

Gloves, goggles and facemask should be worn.

A licensed professional should only use **electrical & power tools**. There have been serious injuries to person using equipment they are not familiar with, such as, amputation and electrical shock.

**Lawn and Gardening Equipment:** No one under 18 years of age should use power equipment. Goggles or glasses should be worn.

**Lifting:** One of the most common injuries at a church is strains as a result of lifting objects which are either too heavy or have been lifted incorrectly. An individual should lift no more than 28 lbs. Group lifting should be used for heavy items. Lift by pushing up from your legs.

**Tree trimming:** Except for light pruning, tree trimming should be done by a professional.