

# MCLB ALBANY SAFETYGRAM

## ATTIC SAFETY

Homeowners will soon begin the annual crawl through attics and storage spaces to unearth the bright lights and blow-up snow globes that grace lawns all across the nation each holiday season. It is important to know the potential hazards that can exist when entering your home's attic.



### What are the hazards associated with entering or working in the attic?

- » Falls from ladders or stairs
- » Falls through the ceiling
- » Electrical shock from exposed wiring
- » Low visibility
- » Cuts and lacerations from protruding nails
- » Dust or floating insulation fibers
- » Stings and bites from bees, wasps, spiders or rodents
- » Extreme temperatures

### What can I do to mitigate these hazards and prevent injury and property damage?

- » Inspect the ladder for loose bolts or hinges and ensure the ladder is rated for your weight.
- » Step only a ceiling joists or beams. Never walk onto a layer of insulation.
- » Avoid contact with electrical wiring and uncovered junction boxes.
- » Use a flashlight to help you see areas that may not be visible by the primary light source.
- » Wear head protection, gloves, and long pants. Dress for the temperature.
- » Wear a disposable mask and safety goggles.
- » Always think about your escape route in case you encounter an animal or stinging insect.
- » Hire a professional to take care of any animal/insect infestations that you encounter.
- » Always hand items down to another person instead of descending the ladder with items in your hands.
- » Never go into the attic when you are home alone!



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**Risk Management 639-5249**  
**Prepared by Rashode Best**

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