

Using Furniture as a Ladder

We've all seen it in the office, a coworker standing on a chair to reach the clock when we "spring forward or fall back" since it's just out of reach; a colleague who climbs on a desk to reach behind it....

Well, I squawk whenever I see this happen (ever so careful not to startle the person and cause a fall). It's plain dangerous.

A friend of mine, while at home, wanted to change a few kitchen lights. So she used the kitchen table as a climbing platform. Unfortunately, she fell off of the table onto the kitchen floor. She had to be rushed to the hospital by ambulance, where they found she had broken her back (no paralysis, thank God!) and several ribs. She was homebound for months, and is now able to get around, in discomfort. She cannot yet drive, and her mobility is limited.

Bottom line -- climbing on furniture can be expeditious, but you are counting on fortune, luck, or whatever, to keep you from serious injury. That fall from the table was only what, three feet, but look at the consequences.