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Subject: Hillery Invention
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500,000 falls from ladders annually; 97 percent occur at home or on farms. According the American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons, every year 500,000 people are treated for ladder-related injuries and approximately 300 of these incidents prove to be fatal.

The most frustrating part of this pervasive public health nightmare, is that many of these injuries can be avoided by simply keeping our citizens off ladders. Thousands of injuries can be prevented, and millions of dollars in health care costs can be avoided.

One of the most common reasons for average people in the home setting to climb a ladder is to simply change the battery in a smoke detector. This requires annual and recurrent “trips up the ladder.”

Tom Hillery’s innovative invention, which permits smoke detector batteries to be changed simply and safely without the need to climb a ladder, will have significant public health benefits as soon as this technology is implemented.

As a physician, I have treated hundreds of patients who have been seriously injured because of preventable falls from ladders. Use of this invention will go a long way toward a safer and healthier society.

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