Determining severity on unsafe observations

Example #1: Employee observed erecting scaffolding 20' above ground with no fall protection.
Likelihood: Employee erects scaffolding every day at varying heights. Environmental conditions (weather) are sometimes a factor.
Severity: A fall from 20' likely results in hospitalization or worse.

Likelihood = High   Severity = High

This observation would be classified as **LIFE-THREATENING** severity.

Example #2: Employee observed standing on top step of 8' stepladder.
Likelihood: Six person work crew using stepladders intermittently each day to install sprinkler piping. The majority of observations for stepladder use have been safe observations. Environmental conditions and work area stresses are not factors.
Severity: A fall from the top step of an 8' stepladder is likely to result in hospitalization.

Likelihood = Low   Severity = High

This observation would be classified as **HIGH** severity.

Example #3: Employee observed painting overhead with safety glasses only, no goggles.
Likelihood: The 10 person work crew is required to paint overhead for a large portion of each day.
Severity: Exposure is not likely to require hospitalization.

Likelihood = High   Severity = Low

This observation would be classified as **MEDIUM** severity.

Example #4: Employee observed sweeping up work area at end of day with no hand protection.
Likelihood: The employee is required to sweep up the work area at the end of each day for approximately 30 minutes. The broom handle is in good condition and the employee is unlikely to sustain a hand injury/splinter.
Severity: Exposure of the employee to hand injury would likely not require hospitalization.

Likelihood = Low   Severity = Low

This observation would be classified as **LOW** severity.