



Tailgate Safety Talk

Information You Can Use to Prevent Accidents & Injuries

Prevent Slips, Trips & Falls

Ice and snow bring with it ODOT's number one winter season problem injury: SLIPS & FALLS. This is especially true with the number of reports of operators falling off equipment. Here are some suggestions for mounting and dismounting equipment:

1. Try to park in an area that provides maximum protection for the operator and passengers and which provides a solid landing during mounting and dismounting. If at all possible, keep away from ditches, holes, and slopes.
2. Don't leave equipment parked and unattended with the engine running. Shut off the engine and set the parking brake when equipment is not in use. Do your equipment check at the same time it's warming up.
3. When climbing on or off equipment, use all steps and all handholds provided. If you are cleaning out a dump bed, use a step ladder.
4. DON'T JUMP FROM EQUIPMENT....whether it's from the cab, dump bed or a trailer deck.
5. Use a three point method in mounting and dismounting. When mounting, face the equipment and using both hands, firmly grasp handholds while placing one foot solidly on the step. When dismounting, face the equipment and place both feet solidly on steps and use one hand to firmly grasp the handhold.

Poor housekeeping plays a major part in creating slip hazards. Look out for the following unsafe practices or conditions:

- Slippery floor surfaces
- Loose rugs, carpets, and flooring
- Liquid, moisture, or ice on the floor
- Food, trash, and small objects on the floor
- Oil or grease on the floor
- Footwear that doesn't have nonskid soles

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For trips, you need to look at the overall work environment. Poor housekeeping plays a major part in creating trip hazards. Look out for the following unsafe practices or conditions:

- Furniture arrangement that creates obstacles for employees to get around
- Materials stored in passageways, aisles, and stairways
- Electrical or telephone cords that cross passageways and aisles
- Protruding electrical receptacle outlets on the floor
- Hazardous floor conditions such as protruding nails, holes, or loose boards
- Loose, ripped, or bunched up carpets and rugs
- Untidy conditions with small objects, tools, or trash on the floor
- Desk or file cabinet drawers left open when they are no longer being used
- Objects protruding into passageways and aisles
- Floor level changes or hidden steps that may not be obvious
- Unsafe stairway conditions or unsafe stairway use
- Elevator cars that don't level off at the same height of the floor it stopped at
- Insufficient lighting for walking or working areas

For preventing falls, you need to look for the following unsafe practices or conditions:

- Using makeshift items (boxes, buckets, chairs, etc.) to gain more height
- Employees not sitting on "4-square" of their chairs
- Employees carrying large or too many items so they can't see where they're going
- Employees jumping from one level to another
- Employees wearing long clothing that catches on their heels

So the next time you see a hazard, be part of the safety team. React by either removing, repairing, or reporting the hazard. Don't leave it for the next person who may turn out to be a victim.

Users of this tailgate talk are advised to determine the suitability of the information as it applies to local situations and work practices and its conformance with applicable laws and regulations.