



Public Sector Safety Talks -APERMA

Working Safely On and Around Maintenance Vehicles and Mechanized Equipment



- Most equipment is designed to be entered with the person facing it. This equipment should be exited the same way: facing it. This allows the operator to see the steps and hand holds and keeps the person's center of gravity close to the machine.
- Never jump from equipment. Always climb all the way down. This will prevent injuries from jumping onto uneven surfaces or loose objects.
- Examine how you and others enter and exit machinery and equipment. Are there adequate steps, rungs and hand-holds? Are the surfaces in good condition and non-slip? Consider retro-fitting equipment to make it safer when mounting and dismounting.
- Don't stop with the cab! If you "check the load", make sure that ladder rungs and hand holds are available to allow checking to be done safely. Don't use a wheel as a step or sideboards as a handhold.
- Apply non-slip surfaces to running boards, deck plates and smooth step surfaces. If it's necessary to climb on fenders or other equipment parts to provide maintenance, apply non-slip material to those surfaces also.
- Make sure the shops, garages and cold storage areas are adequately lighted and that good housekeeping eliminates trip hazards.
- Always wear the proper footwear for the job and for the weather conditions. A good work boot must have adequate tread to reduce friction. Use "ice-grip" footwear when warranted by conditions.
- Use special caution when walking on snow and ice. Take small steps and walk carefully. When called in for plowing, plow and sand your facility first.
- Keep floor areas in garages free of debris, tools, parts, materials, etc. Mark parking lanes on the garage floor and keep the area inside of the lanes clear.
- Establish a maintenance schedule to steam clean concrete shop and garage floors at least annually to prevent buildup of oil, grease and hydraulic fluid.
- When doing vehicle or machinery maintenance, don't stand on bumpers, pallets, oil drums or similar unstable surfaces. Purchase proper ladders or platforms which are sturdy and stable for work.

Please feel free to contact Jim Bergemann or Kathi Williams at 800-274-2788 with any questions regarding the above material. Also should you need additional safety topics, please let us know.

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