

Safety Short

Working Safely On and Around

Maintenance Vehicles and Mechanized Equipment

Tips for Prevention of Slip/Fall Accidents:

- ✓ 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 handholds 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 handholds? Are the surfaces in good condition and non-slip? Consider retrofitting 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 handholds 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.

