

SEE-MORE SAFETY SAYS...



Heavy Equipment – Mounting & Dismounting

It might seem trivial to have a training session on how to get up and down and sit properly on a bulldozer. The fact is that many workdays are lost because of slips, trips, and falls on and from heavy equipment. The following toolbox talk can help prevent heavy equipment and slip, trip, and fall accidents.

Pre-operational inspection – You should always perform a pre-operational (pre-shift) inspection on equipment you plan to operate. The inspection should include checking that: (1) Access ladders, steps, guardrails, and handholds are securely fastened and in good condition. Ensure there are no loose, bent, cracked, or missing parts, and (2) walking and/or stepping surfaces are free of debris and/or slippery substances and that non-skid surfaces, where required, are in good shape.

Getting up and down – Believe it or not there are proper ways of climbing up, getting into or out of cabs and seats, and getting down and off of equipment. You should:

- Always use handrails, face the ladder or steps, and maintain three points of contact (two feet and one hand, or one foot and two hands) at all times.
- Always use anti-slip surfaces for climbing or stepping.
- Never jump from or to ladders, steps, or walkways.

Cab inspection – You should check “sitting” equipment weekly to ensure:

- Door latches work and doors can be opened from the inside or out.
- Seat suspensions operate properly. Any loose, binding broken or missing parts must be repaired before use.
- Forward and rear adjustment, weight compensators, and other adjustable features work properly.
- Employee transport vehicles have a seat for each employee and that it is firmly attached.

Seat belts – Motor vehicles are those that operate on highways and at off-highway jobsites not open to public traffic including dump and pick-up trucks. Seat belt rules for this equipment are: (1) Seat belts and anchorages must be installed and used, and (2) seat belts and accessories must be checked at the beginning of each shift to ensure they are safe and free of apparent damage that could cause failure.

When using materials handling equipment (earthmoving equipment such as scrapers, loaders, crawler or wheel tractors, bulldozers, etc.) OSHA says: “when seat belts are provided you must use them, whether the rules call for them or not.”

In the worse case scenario, employees that fall from moving equipment are run over and end up in the hospital or are killed. It happens all the time. Don’t let it happen at your worksite.