

Falls from Vehicles

Over the past two years Highways England has seen a rise in the number of falls from road and plant vehicles resulting in 12 RIDDOR reportable injuries, representing 13% of the total. These have included three broken legs, three broken ankles a fractured wrist and five serious sprains. Seven of these incidents involved traffic management operatives.

Many of these incidents have occurred when people egress vehicles on to uneven ground including planed edges, kerbs, debris and excavations. Other causal factors have included inadequate planning, poorly designed vehicle access, equipment maintenance, poor housekeeping, drivers 'jumping' down from vehicles and poor lighting. With this in mind please ensure you are doing all you can to mitigate this risk. Most of these accidents can be avoided if everyone on site does their bit to make the workplace safer.

Over the next few months Highways England will be carrying out targeted site visits, focusing on the management of potential falls from vehicles.

Advice & Guidance

Raising the Bar Guidance

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/health-and-safety-for-major-road-schemes-raising-the-bar-initiative>

Highways Safety Hub Campaign

<http://www.highwayssafetyhub.com/overhead-hazards.html>

HSE Falls from Vehicles Campaign

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/fallsfromvehicles/managers.htm>

Actions

- Where work at height is unavoidable for loading, unloading, maintenance and cleaning. Provide steps, gantries or platforms with edge protection.
- Ensure vehicle beds and catwalks are tidy and well maintained to help prevent slips, trips and falls.
- Agree safe ways of loading and unloading to minimise the amount of time workers have to spend in the vehicle loading area.
- Where personnel have to access or leave plant and vehicles during the hours of darkness; ensure adequate lighting is provided, either on the vehicle or from an external source so that they can see access.
- Provide vehicle washing facilities and ensure they are used. Diesel, grease or mud increases the likelihood of slipping on the catwalk, steps or load area.
- Provide training on how to safely access and egress vehicles include maintaining three points of contact
- Ensure that access and egress equipment on plant and vehicles such as steps, handholds, catwalks and vehicle beds are suitable and checked as part of the regular user inspection process.
- Provide drivers with a system for reporting faults related to safety equipment. Make sure faults are repaired quickly.
- Provide suitable slip-resistant footwear for drivers and communicate the importance of keeping them clean.
- Give drivers a 'toolbox talk' on how to avoid falls and provide refresher sessions at regular intervals.
- During Supervisors and Managers H&S tours/inspections, check to ensure that fall prevention measures are actually taken.
- Delivery partners and service providers are requested to review controls and send a written response to Neil Tyson by **22nd April 2016**



Operator broke his leg when climbing from this excavator. Note the machines position which made egress unsafe.



Traffic management foreman sustained a serious ankle injury after stepping on to planed road level.

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