

Toolbox talks

Prevention of falls during loading and unloading

Background information:

Many accidents occur during the loading and unloading activities of vehicles. For example while gaining access to or to egress from the vehicle or while involved in loading/unloading or other activities.

Hazards:

- Insecure loads
- Unintended movement of loads
- Falls from vehicles – personnel
- Trapped by load being loaded/unloaded
- People being struck by object falling from vehicles.

Health and safety points:

- It is the driver's responsibility to remove securing restraints from the loaded vehicle
- It is the driver's responsibility to ensure the load is secure and will not fall uncontrollably when the restraints are removed during unloading
- Supervision to make an assessment of the load as to the safe method of unloading/loading
- Delivery of materials and equipment must be planned and scheduled
- Whenever possible, loading and unloading should be carried out without accessing the vehicle
- If this is not possible, then a fixed barrier should be provided to prevent falls from the vehicle, or failing that, same means of fall arrest must be used (eg bean bags or lanyard or harness)
- The method of unloading / loading must be agreed with site management in advance of the delivery
- Ensure vehicle body is clean and clear of slip and trip hazards ie loose materials and spillages
- Ensure the loading/unloading area is clear of passing traffic and pedestrians
- Ensure that loading/unloading operations are carried out safely
- Use competent persons ie slinger/signaller
- Ensure loading/unloading activities are carried out using safe systems of work on firm level ground, and free from potholes
- Ensure the vehicles loading space is adequate and in good condition under foot
- Do not stay on the vehicle whilst loading or unloading is taking place except when safe to do so
- Stand clear of load during lifting operations
- Take care during or following adverse weather conditions
- Use designated loading/unloading areas where possible.

Question time:

- Q How can you ensure that the load is not going to move?
- Q What action must be taken during or following adverse weather?

Have you got any questions?

Record questions on the attendance sheet.

Safety reminder:

Nothing is so important that it cannot be done safely.