

## Safely Exiting Work Vehicles

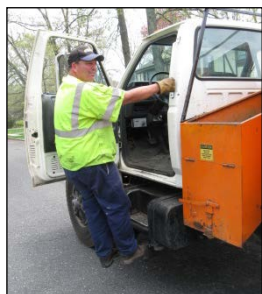
In this lesson, we are going to discuss a skill so basic, it is often overlooked. This most-basic-of-task is **getting out of, or off, a work vehicle**. During the winter many municipalities experience a spike in this type of injuries and near misses. Injuries are driven by both frequency (the number of cases) and severity (average cost).

The risk factors for these injuries can be numerous:

- Work trucks are getting larger and the running boards are getting higher
- Working in unfamiliar locations; roadways, driveways, lots, etc.
- Working in all environmental conditions; rain, sleet, snow, darkness, etc.
- Working in extreme conditions and under severe time constraints
- Focusing on numerous, immediate priorities, workers can neglect watching their step
- Tool placement on apparatus

Control measures which should be considered:

- Drivers need to be aware of gullies, sloped or rough terrain, icy patches, etc. when parking the vehicle. On BOTH sides of the vehicle.
- Inspect soles of work boots frequently. Insist employees promptly report worn soles.
- Consider trip-fall hazards when positioning tools. Avoid running boards, areas next to handholds, steps, and atop apparatus.
- Train workers on the 3-points of contact method for getting on or off vehicles. Face the vehicle and use available handholds. Reinforce proper technique and correct bad ones until good habits are ingrained.



### Proper Method

Note:  
Facing truck, with  
3-points of contact



### Risky

Facing outward.  
  
Like a ladder,  
always face the  
truck.

Accidents can still occur. A comprehensive Accident Review must be conducted to identify all the circumstances that resulted in the fall. Accidents and near-misses must become learning opportunities, not just for the worker involved, but shared with everyone. Take pictures and use them to show the circumstances, reinforce positive behaviors / conditions, or correct undesirable behaviors / conditions. Some possible questions for the Accident Review team might include:

- Could moving the vehicle a couple of feet in any direction have provided a better surface for worker to exit the truck onto? Why wasn't the vehicle positioned there?
- What were the conditions of the ground and boots? What were the environmental conditions? S-T-F incidents involve the foot-surface connection. Both must be carefully considered.