

# TOOLBOX TALKS

## Mounting and Dismounting Equipment

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### TOPIC: Mounting and Dismounting Equipment

#### General info

Mounting and dismounting equipment is one of the most dangerous activities associated with equipment. The reason for this is due to a variety of factors:

- Rushing and not paying attention to foot or hand placement
- Slippery or obstructed surfaces

#### Things You Can Do to Reduce Injuries Due to Mounting and Dismounting

- ALWAYS read the **Operation & Maintenance Manual** for proper mount and dismount procedures
- Inspect the ground** before climbing up or down. Note where feet will be placed to avoid a twisted or sprained ankle
- ALWAYS check the **condition of the steps, ladders and rails** for mud, water, ice, dust or any other material that could cause slips
- Always maintain **three points of contact** when mounting and dismounting equipment – This means always have two feet and one hand or two hands and one foot in contact with the machine at all times
  - Doing so means not carrying items when mounting or dismounting equipment
  - If carrying items up and down from the cab is necessary, place the item(s) on a bench or a ledge of the equipment and stagger step the items up or down with the extra hand while maintaining three points of contact, or you can also use a rope to raise or lower the items
- ALWAYS mount and dismount while facing the equipment
- Inspect the condition of rails and guarding** for damage and effectiveness
- Always **close and latch gates**, as required, for fall protection
- Close doors** to the equipment in case the outside grab bars are used as handles while climbing in or out
- DO NOT RUSH** – Take the time needed to properly enter and exit the equipment; do not skip steps or rungs in the ladder

#### Questions to Generate Discussion:

- What is the top reason for slips and trips while mounting and dismounting your equipment?
- In what condition are the steps, ladders, and handrails on the machines that you use?

Discussion Date: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Employee Participants:

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