

APRIL *Safety Talk*

Topic: Equipment Mounting & Dismounting

A surprising number of injuries are caused by mounting and dismounting mobile equipment – including backhoes, excavators, mowers and fire trucks.

Safe access when mounting or dismounting these various pieces of equipment is an essential part of workplace safety.

The key rule: Always maintain three points of contact

- Use either two hands and one foot or one hand and two feet when mounting and dismounting equipment.
- Keep hands free when making three points of contact (don't be carrying something - use hoisting materials to transport tools and other objects that may keep hands from being free).
- Maintain traction by making sure your footwear is free of potential slippery hazards such as dirt, oil and grease.

Inspection and maintenance

- Inspect contact areas for slip or trip hazards.
- Make sure steps and handrails are properly secured and free of defects and debris.
- Ensure landing areas are free from tripping and slipping hazards (indentations or objects in the way).

Safe egress

- Never jump from the equipment, always maintain three points of contact.
- Always face the machine when dismounting.

