

## **Tool Box Talk – Safe Access & Egress from Operated Plant**

### **Introduction & Purpose**

Falls from vehicles are among the most common accidents and represent a third of all accidents involving workplace transport. Research undertaken by the Health and Safety Executive confirms that a third of the accidents are caused by an initial slip or trip. Unfortunately Barhale reported a major injury in October 2010 as a direct result of a fall from a crane which resulted in a fractured shoulder.

The purpose of this toolbox talk is to raise awareness on the risks associated with falls from operated plant (i.e. cranes, excavators, dumpers, tele-handlers, delivery vehicles) and the precautions and safe behaviours required by Site / Yard Personnel and in particular Plant Operators to prevent similar accidents.

### **Safe Access & Egress Behaviors by Operators:**

- **ALWAYS** use designed equipment provided by the manufacturer for safe access and egress.
- Align upper and lower carriages to ensure access and egress routes are easily negotiated, preventing the need to stretch to maintain 3 points of contact or making easy contact with footholds or step irons.
- **NEVER** jump from equipment as there is a greater risk of sustaining an injury.
- If in doubt, check the manufacturers handbook to confirm arrangements for safe access and egress.
- During access and egress, always face the equipment and maintain 3 points of contact.
- If the design of the equipment does not allow for 3 points of contact to be maintained, please confirm this with your Supervisor immediately to enable corrective action to be taken.
- Inspect access and egress equipment daily before use and during formal weekly inspections.
- Report all defects associated with access and egress equipment immediately and arrange repair. **DO NOT** use damaged equipment.
- Check and keep steps, footholds free of contamination i.e. grease, mud etc to remove the risk of a slip, trip or fall. Excavator Operators should 'dig out' material at the beginning of each shift where there is a risk of obstructing material affecting access equipment.
- Keep access routes to plant and equipment clear of trip hazards
- If using equipment at night, ensure adequate background lighting exists to facilitate safe use of equipment provided.
- Be extra cautious during winter months and at night where falling temperatures affect access points increasing the risk of slips.
- Check your footwear is in good condition providing the necessary grip and free of contamination i.e. grease / mud.
- **If you have any concerns then always consult with your Supervisor first to seek further advice.**

## **Actions by Site / Yard Management and Direct Line Supervisors**

It is imperative that Site / Yard Managers and Direct Line Supervisors plan, implement and check work activities on site on a continual basis, consulting with Site and Yard Personnel and dealing with issues that may arise. The following actions assist in preventing falls from plant and equipment and unnecessary injuries sustained by Plant Operators:

- Assess the risks associated with plant access and egress at specific site locations which enable planning and correct plant selection to be agree prior hiring equipment.
- Cover access and egress arrangements during Module 2 Site and Yard Inductions
- Planning site and working layouts including the need for suitable background and task site lighting to provide safe access and egress to operated plant
- Providing clean and tidy work areas which prevent slips, trips and falls and allow safe access and egress on foot to site personnel.
- Plan static plant set-ups i.e. crane locations to ensure equipment can be positioned to allow Operators safe access and egress. This could result in the need to plan man-rider cage landing positions to allow the Operator to align the upper and lower carriages.
- Observe access and egress behaviour's on site by Operators adopting a 'don't walk by' approach and making sure proprietary equipment is used correctly.
- Check and ensure weekly plant inspections are completed by Operators
- If informed of defects or issues with safe access and egress onto plant and equipment, take ownership in making sure the equipment is firstly taken out of service until the item of equipment can be either replaced or repaired.
- Encourage feedback from site personnel during weekly 3 pillar forums on how site conditions or working environments can be improved to allow for safe access and egress where applicable.

## **Always Remember**

**It's Not the Falling that Hurt's – It's the Landing!**