

TOOL BOX TALKS

Loading Dock Safety

Transportation Slip, Trip and Fall Prevention



Serious injuries occur when employees fall from loading docks. Additional hazards include forklifts, dock plates, steps and unsecured trucks. Winter and wet weather create slick floors. Review these safety tips with your employees.

Tool Box Tips

1. Never “dock jump,” a knee injury could occur.
2. Never climb into a dock door. A fall could lead to serious injury.
3. Keep dock doors closed to prevent falls and increase security.
4. If dock doors must stay open for ventilation purposes, provide a guardrail system to prevent accidental falls.
5. Keep dock floors dry and clear of spills.
6. If drivers enter the facility, keep an eye out for them to ensure their safety and security.
7. Make sure forklift spot lights function.
8. Make sure trailer lights function to light the inside of dark trailers.
9. When loading or offloading straight trucks, use a pallet jack instead of a forklift.
10. Keep dock areas and stairs free of ice and snow.
11. Forklift operators must wear seat belts and make sure trailer tires are chocked before loading and unloading.
12. Keep floors clear of trip hazards such as trash, plastic strapping and shrink wrap.
13. Rain water that leaks into loading dock areas must be mopped up.
14. Use three points of contact when mounting and dismounting forklifts.
15. Remove empty pallets from the work area.
16. Do not stand on empty pallets. Use a proper foot stool.
17. Do not stand pallets on end. They will fall over, resulting in serious injury.

Keep dock floors dry and clear of spills.

These advisory materials have been developed from national standards and sources believed to be reliable, however, no guarantee is made as to the sufficiency of the information contained in the material and Missouri Employers Mutual Insurance Company assumes no liability for its use. Advice about specific situations should be obtained from a safety professional.

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