

Preventing falls from trucks & equipment

Falls are one of the leading causes of serious injury in agriculture. Montana State Fund had nearly 600 slips, trips and falls claims in the last 5 years totaling over \$12 million dollars in the agricultural field alone! Climbing on trucks, stepping off equipment, or using ladders for quick tasks are daily activities in the ag industry. Doing these tasks daily can mean that we become complacent on the risks and dangers of injury. Follow these safety tips to prevent your next accident.

Preventing falls from truck beds & trailers

• Before Climbing

- Park on level ground
- Set the parking brake
- Wear proper footwear- slip resistant boots
- Clear mud, ice, grain, and debris from the steps

• While Climbing

- Maintain 3 points of contact (two hands + one foot or two + one hand)
- Use installed steps and handholds – not tires or bumpers
- Face the truck when climbing up or down
- Do NOT jump from truck beds

• Safer Options

- Install grab handles and non-slip steps
- Use portable work platforms when loading/unloading
- Add adequate lighting for early morning or evening work

Mounting & dismounting equipment

Most falls happen when getting on or off equipment. Focus on the following:

- Always face the equipment
- Use the steps and handholds - every time!
- Slow down and NEVER jump off equipment
- Clean the steps of equipment regularly
- Repair damaged steps or ladders immediately
- Maintain 3 points of contact

Management & cultural tips

- Set a clear “No Jumping” standard
- Model the right behavior - every time!
- Normalize speaking up!
- Recognize and reinforce safe choices
- Build time for safety into the schedule
- Address equipment design proactively

