

# Preventing Falls From Construction Equipment

Falls from construction equipment cause serious injuries to operators and service people. The larger the equipment, the greater the fall distance, and the more severe the injuries.

Many falls occur because of poor house-keeping. Oil, mud, and grease accumulate on the equipment. Also, in cold weather, frost, ice and snow can build up on the equipment to create slippery surfaces.

Steps, ladders, and grab bars are installed on most new equipment. They are to be used for mounting or for dismounting the equipment, and are there for your safety.

Checking the engine and other servicing locations can be difficult. The job can be done more quickly and more safely using a stepladder. Take the time to locate and use a safe stepladder.

Points to remember:

- When climbing on the equipment, use the hand and step holds.
- Avoid doing the “split” to make long reaches.
- Avoid carrying packages or tools when mounting or dismounting.
- Wear appropriate footwear.
- Never jump from the equipment.
- Report any damaged handholds or footholds so they can be repaired.
- Advise the master mechanic if the machine needs additional rails or steps.
- Keep your machine free of leaks; clean off mud, ice, snow, grease and oil that can make surfaces slippery.

We want you to be safe on the job. Please do your part to protect yourself!!

For more information, contact your local Hartford agent or your Hartford Loss Control Consultant. Visit The Hartford’s Loss Control web site at <http://www.thehartford.com/corporate/losscontrol/>

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