

Forest Industry Safety Alert

Equipment operator misses handrail, falls to ground from ladder on his machine

Location: St. Leon Creek (near Nakusp, BC)

Date: February 19, 2015

Details of Close Call / Serious Incident: Hook truck operator was climbing up the ladder to the loader. He missed grabbing the upper handrail and fell backwards to the ground.

The fall resulted in a broken heel and possible wrist injury. The investigation confirmed that his footwear was adequate and the ladder was in good condition, with clean rungs.



Learnings and Suggestions:

- Evaluate the ergonomics of the movements required for access and departure from the loading platform.
- Ensure all rungs, platforms and handrails are clean of debris & oils, conducive to easy grip and footing, and that 3 point contact can be made at all times.
- Review 3 point contact procedures and methods with machine operators.
- Ensure lighting is adequate, especially in areas where body movements are critical.
- Evaluate the use of a fall restraint device to use during access, departure, and while operator is on platform.
- Ensure that an effective man-check system is in place for workers working alone, and that workers use an effective communication system to notify others of their actions and status.

For more information on this submitted alert: Larry Rivers (250) 265-2296