Tarping Related Fall Injuries to Drivers

What happened

A series of work-related safety and health injury prevention tips for the trucking industry Driver using a tarping station. Covering a load to protect it during transit can be dangerous. Falling off the load or trailer is no small matter. Following are summaries of fall injuries sustained while covering and uncovering loads with tarps. These examples are just a few of the many tarping related fall injuries experienced every year.

 Of the injuries summarized, the shortest amount of time lost from work was **two months.**

Companies and drivers can’t afford these types of injuries.

• A 49-year-old driver on his truck tarping a load fell off when the wind blew the tarp. He landed on his right shoulder, spraining it and developing serious complications. Workers’ compensation costs were **$170,000**, including **227** weeks of time-loss.

• A 40-year-old driver tarping a load of wood chips fell from the catwalk of a trailer and landed on his left outstretched arm, breaking his wrist. Workers’ compensation costs were **$9,000**, including**8** weeks of time-loss.

• A 45-year-old driver on his truck tarping a load of steel tubing fell to the pavement when the heel of his boot caught on a load strap. He sprained his neck, shoulder, and back. Workers’ compensation costs were **$28,000**, including **40** weeks of time loss.

• A 31-year-old driver taking a cord off of a tarp on top of a load of plywood slipped and fell 10 feet to the ground, spraining and fracturing his right ankle. Workers’ compensation costs were **$18,000**, including **12** weeks of time-loss.

How can you prevent similar incidents? **- Purchase A Portable Tarping Station**

• Provide/carry a ladder to access the top of the load.**- OR - Purchase A Portable Tarping Station**

• Have drivers use tarping stations that customers make available.**- OR - Purchase A Portable Tarping Station**

• Have drivers share techniques or tricks with other drivers.**- OR - Purchase A Portable Tarping Station**

• Use a forklift to get tarps on top of load, but don’t ride the forks along with the tarp.**- OR - Purchase A Portable Tarping Station**

• Develop and document a fall prevention plan.**- OR - Purchase A Portable Tarping Station**

• Consider updating to curtain side vans.**- OR - Purchase A Portable Tarping Station**

• Have drivers roll tarps out forward rather than pulling backwards, so edges and voids are visible.**- OR - Purchase A Portable Tarping Station**

How many more drivers will get injured, how much more money does workers compensation have to spend, before you take action!