



Important News

To: BFFF Members' Health & Safety Contacts

Date: 18th September 2007

HSE TARGETS DEPOT MANAGERS IN FALLS FROM VEHICLES CAMPAIGN

Around 2000 workers are seriously injured in falls from HGVs every year, making it a common workplace accident. Although most of these falls are from relatively low levels i.e. below head height, they frequently result in broken bones - with about 800 injuries classed as major each year and an average of five workers killed every year.

To highlight the problem and ultimately reduce accident numbers HSE kicks off a major campaign in October.

Depot managers are a top target for the campaign messages and HSE has identified ten key things depot managers can do to prevent such falls:

1. Agree safe ways of un/loading to reduce the time a worker is in the vehicle load area.
2. Carry out regular vehicle checks on equipment such as the steps and catwalk – areas where faults can lead to falls.
3. Give drivers a system for reporting faults with access equipment on their vehicles - check they use it. (And, make sure repairs happen quickly!)
4. Make sure all areas are well lit (poor lighting will hide slip and trip hazards).
5. Keep vehicle beds and catwalks tidy to prevent slips and trips.
6. Make sure that vehicles are cleaned - diesel or mud etc can be slippery and can cause accidents.
7. Provide steps, platforms and other safety equipment when working at height just can't be avoided.
8. Provide slip-resistant footwear for drivers.
9. Give drivers a toolbox talk on how to avoid falls and provide regular refresher sessions.
10. Check that people are actually taking the precautions you provide against falls.

Visit <http://www.hse.gov.uk/fallsfromvehicles> for tips, case studies and more information.

**BFFF
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