

Hazard: Falls from Equipment

Workers' compensation claims due to falls from equipment are common in the logging industry. The injuries can be serious. Falls often occur when getting in or out of machinery, walking to or from the machine, or during equipment maintenance.

Working in ice, snow, rain, and mud can increase the chances of falling while entering or exiting machinery. Missing or damaged hand grabs can also lead to falls, especially when operators are working in the dark or in poor weather conditions.



Simple hazard management strategies can reduce the risk:

Access/Egress

- Keep steps, tracks, and hand rails clean and in good condition.
- Use 3 points of contact and face the machine when entering or exiting.
- Take extra time getting in and out during inclement weather.
- Shovel mud out of tracks to keep steps clear, or park along something that can be used as a step.

Walking to and from equipment

- Move machine to a good location before exiting.
- Have a good headlamp or flashlight.
- Remove tripping hazards from walking paths.
- Keep landings clean.

Maintenance

- Place anti-skid strips on areas used for walking.
- Do not step on pickup bed rails.
- Only stand on stable objects while greasing and fueling.

Prepared by WA State Fatality Assessment and Control Evaluation (WA FACE) program. WA FACE is supported in part by a grant from the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH grant 2U00H008487).