



## Falls from Vehicles in the Electric Power Utility Industry

30 Electric power utility workers were seriously injured falling from vehicles and equipment in 2000-2004, resulting in 2,557 days off work.



The injuries from these accidents were so serious, the workers had to take time off from work or in some cases were permanently disabled. These serious injuries are costly and affect your industrial insurance premiums. They contribute to the reason for the base rate of \$1.28 per hour per employee paid by contractors and employers in 2006s. If your company has a higher than average number of injuries (claims), your “experience rating” could increase by as much as 25% in one year to \$1.59 per hour per employee.

Stated in another way, if you had 5 full-time workers and had an average number of injuries (claims), you would pay about \$13,312 in premiums in 2006. If your experience rating increased by 25% because you had higher than average injuries, you would pay about \$3,224 more or \$16,536 in premiums in 2006.

### Causes of fall injuries

Fall injuries commonly occur when workers slip, misstep, jump, trip, lose their balance, or otherwise lose their footing when

- entering or exiting vehicle cabs
- climbing into or out of bucket lifts, or onto and off of trucks, backhoes, and other vehicles and equipment
- loading/unloading materials from the bed or other parts of the vehicle or equipment

The method of getting onto and off of vehicles/equipment and the condition of the working surfaces play an important role in the causes.



### Ways to prevent falls

- When entering or exiting the cab of a vehicle, use the three-point rule which requires either two hands and one foot, or two feet and one hand, to be in contact with the vehicle at all times.
- Always use the mounting handles and the stepping surfaces designed for the purpose of entering and exiting.
- Make sure your foot is securely planted on the step before moving.
- Replace any defective or missing steps.
- Make sure the stepping surfaces and your shoes are free of mud, ice, and oil. Wear slip-resistant shoes to help with traction.
- Make sure areas on the ground and on the vehicle where you are stepping are clear of potential tripping hazards, such as air hoses and tools.
- Do not jump off vehicles.
- When working close to the edge of either the vehicle’s bed or elsewhere on the vehicle, always face toward the edge to keep from falling backwards.

