

## Safety Flash

### Incident with injury

**Incident:** An operator stepped out of a skid steer facing forward, without maintaining three points of contact. As he stepped down from the bucket, his foot slipped forward on the bottom of the bucket. He did not fall and recovered his footing without grabbing nearby equipment. When he slipped, he injured his back.

#### Possible contributing factors:

- The operator climbed out of the bucket facing forward without maintaining three points of contact – instead of facing the skid steer and gripping the handles on either side of the machine.
- His boots were covered in mud and snow.
- The skid steer was parked overnight behind a cooling tower where mist constantly falls to the ground, creating ice.
- The operator was delayed in finishing a task and felt rushed to complete his work.

#### Primary contributing factor:

- The operator climbed out of the bucket facing forward without maintaining three points of contact, instead of facing the skid steer and gripping the handles on either side of the machine.

#### Possible solutions:

- When getting on and off equipment, always face the machine and grip the handles on either side of the machine.
- Make boot cleaners easily accessible.
- Park equipment away from the cooling tower area or cover with tarps, if possible, to prevent icing.
- Use STAC cards and pre-task planning to identify and mitigate slip/trip hazards.
- Never rush to complete tasks.

#### Action plan:

- A safety stand-down was held with all associates on site to discuss walking/working surfaces.
- Operators were given an instruction pamphlet from Bobcat, describing the proper way to get on and off skid steers.
- Boot cleaners will be made easily accessible.
- Park equipment away from the cooling tower area or cover with tarps, if possible, to prevent icing.

#### Keep improving

Your health and safety are our core value on every project. If you see a way we can support you in keeping our job sites safe, see your supervisor or contact: Jim Philo, 419/654-2043; Rich Franklin, Michigan, 734/679-7283; Alan Doane, Cleveland, 440/429-0639; Chad Metzger, Lima, 419/279-5348 or Mark Hoffman, 419/360-9280.

