TAILGATE – THREE POINTS OF CONTACT

Every year there are several injuries within caused by employees losing their grip and footing while entering and exiting machines and equipment. Oftentimes, employees who were injured by a fall admit that they were carrying tools or parts in their hands, which caused them to lose their grip. Resulting injuries have varied from strains and sprains to dislocated fingers and broken bones.

This training is meant to remind leaders and employees that three points of contact must be maintained while entering and exiting machines, commercial vehicles and equipment.

The first form of fall protection is hands and feet. This is true when using a handrail while walking up and down stairs, while climbing up and down ladders and while entering and exiting machines, commercial vehicles and equipment.

THREE IMPORTANT FACTORS OF THREE POINTS OF CONTACT:

1. Hand grip must be secure. A hand filled with tools and/or parts is not secure.
2. Individual fingers do not equal a hand. A hand grip while entering and exiting machines, commercial vehicles and equipment is the same grip that would be used to shake someone’s hand.
3. Footing must be secure. This means that it’s important to keep the soles of boots and shoes as free of mud, dirt, grease, oil and water as possible.

THE FOUR STATES OF MIND THAT ARE OFTEN ASSOCIATED WITH ACCIDENTS:

Rushing – Complacency – Frustration – Fatigue

• What state (or states) of mind would be associated with ignoring the three points of contact rule?

WHAT TO WATCH FOR:

• Have you or your peers formed unsafe habits that could lead to a fall?