

# Safety Best Practice

## Portable Side Truck Mount Ladder



### Scenario

A driver was in the process of delivering equipment to a customer's jobsite. Upon arriving, he proceeded to climb onto the deck by grabbing the door frame, swinging one leg up over onto the deck, and then pulling his body up the rest of the way. After working for a period of time, the driver positioned himself near the leading edge of the deck to get down and lost control causing him to fall to the ground.

### Contributing Factors

There was no safe way to climb on and off the deck. Often, the manufactured ladder on a vehicle is inadequate due to not having handles necessary to provide for three points of contact when ascending or descending from the deck.

### Lessons Learned

After a successful trial period, positive results are reported by using a portable side truck mounted ladder. The ladder shown in the photos is found to be easily maneuverable allowing an employee to easily reposition it to areas around the sides of the trailer preventing the risk of jumping/ falling on and off the deck. The mobile ladder system provides for safe access on and off the deck using three points of contact.

**The information below will be helpful should you need to purchase one of these ladders.**

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### Safety Tips

#### What Can Happen?

Without the use of a safe method to mitigate the fall hazard while climbing onto an elevated deck, and exiting the deck safely, the potential for injury is high. Hazards include but are not limited to: slips, trips, and falls.

#### What are the Consequences?

Falling off the deck can cause severe injury to the all parts of the body, including head and neck.

#### What Can I Do?

- Review the safe methods to climb on and off a deck at a Daily Safety Toolbox Meeting. Go out and complete the climbing task so everyone knows exactly how it is performed.
- Ensure all ladders, of any type, are inspected and safe prior to each use.
- Ensure proper storage and securement is adequate for all ladders.
- Ensure a side truck ladder is properly hooked into the rub rail or stake pockets prior to ascending or descending. Ensure hand grabs are in a position to maintain three points of contact at all times. If using another type or style of ladder, ensure an inspection is completed and proper placement is secure before using.
- Wear all appropriate PPE for the task. Also, regularly inspect boots for wear and oil residues etc.
- Avoid positioning yourself at the edge of the deck and never walk backward while on the deck.

