

# TEXAS MUTUAL SAFETY ALERT



As a service to our policyholders, Texas Mutual shares common workplace injuries reported to our claims department. Our goal is to help you ensure these types of incidents do not happen in your workplace. Find tips and suggested e-Learning training courses below to help keep your employees safe on the job.

If you have questions, we encourage you to call our safety services support center at **844-WORKSAFE (967-5723)** between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. CST.

## IN THIS ALERT

- Loading/unloading trailers
- Ladder safety
- Work zone safety

## HAZARDS FROM LOADING AND UNLOADING TRAILERS

An employee was unloading materials from a trailer, but upon releasing the binding chains, the load shifted. The employee was caught between two racks and received serious injuries. In an unrelated incident, an employee was standing on top of a trailer while his colleagues loaded material. He slipped and sustained serious injuries from a 13-foot fall to the ground.



### ! Safety tips:

- Before loading or unloading equipment, ensure the vehicle is turned off, the brake is applied and the wheels are chocked, if necessary.
- Inspect chains, straps and ropes for any damages and ensure they are properly applied to the load before moving the vehicle.
- Fall protection is required in general industry when you are working four feet or more above the surface below.
- When unloading, be cautious of shifted items and work with the driver to make sure securements are removed in the proper order.

### e-Learning course suggestions:

Load Securement  
Blocking and Cribbing for Heavy Equipment  
Portable Loading Ramps

## LADDERS SLIP OUT FROM UNDER EMPLOYEES

An employee was climbing up a ladder when it slipped out from under him, causing him to fall about 20 feet. It turns out the ladder was placed on top of plastic during painting which compromised the ladder's footing. In another incident, an employee was standing on a ladder outside while working on a sign. One of the legs of the ladder started sinking into the ground and the employee fell when the ladder began tilting.

Luckily, neither of these employees received life-threatening injuries. However, these incidents could have easily been disastrous and could have been avoided by following proper safety procedures.



### e-Learning course suggestions:

Ladder Safety

Mounting and Dismounting  
Heavy Equipment

### ! Safety tips:

- Consider the necessary height, possible obstructions, your weight and the weight of any equipment when selecting the proper ladder for the job.
- Inspect the ladder prior to use and remove it from service if there are any damages or defects.
- Ensure that the ladder is placed on a firm, level surface and that the footing is secure.
- If the ladder could be easily displaced by other work activities, secure the ladder or place a barricade around the area.
- The base of an extension ladder should be placed a distance from the wall equal to a quarter of the height of the wall or vertical surface.

## EMPLOYEE STRUCK BY MOVING VEHICLE

A crew was setting up a work zone in order to install a new road sign. This consisted of road work signage and then safety cones leading up to the work area. An employee was following proper protocol; he was riding in the back of a trailer attenuator, putting out cones leading up to the work zone, when a third-party vehicle struck the employee. The employee is recovering, but sustained serious injuries. National Work Zone Awareness Week will be recognized this year, April 9-13. The 2018 theme is Work Zone Safety: Everybody's Responsibility. For more information, visit the American Traffic Safety Services Association website.



### e-Learning course suggestions:

Work Zone Safety

Driving Large Vehicles and Heavy Equipment

### ! Safety tips:

- Only properly trained personnel should operate a vehicle with an attached attenuator.
- All members of a road crew should wear personal protective equipment, such as a hard hat and a high-visibility vest.
- Ensure that the reflective tape on the cones is still visible, or replace the cone if it's not.
- Truck mounted attenuators with guarded standing platforms can be a safer vehicle for this type of work, due to the employee standing on the side of the truck versus the back.

## GET FREE SAFETY RESOURCES

Texas Mutual policyholders have access to thousands of free training materials in our multimedia safety resource center, including 200 free e-Learning online training courses. With e-Learning, you can assign safety courses to your employees to help train them and keep them safe.

To access the free materials, log into your [texasmutual.com](http://texasmutual.com) account and select safety resources. If you need helping accessing the safety resource center or you have a workplace safety question, call us toll-free at **844-WORKSAFE (967-5723)**.