

RIDDOR INJURY - Fall from Height from a dumper

What happened?

We recently had a serious incident where an operative descending the steps of a dumper fell backwards striking the back of his head on a concrete kerbstone. He was fortunate to suffer no more than a bad cut to his head and momentary loss of consciousness. He has made a full recovery and is back in work.

Whilst the investigation and learning is continuing, one immediate safety concern has arisen in that he fell because he lost his grip on the wet safety handrail that is used to assist the climbing in or out of the dumper or other plant. He was wearing gloves and some tests have shown that when the handrail (seen highlighted yellow paint), is wet, this can be very slippery and cause you to lose grip.

We are urgently looking into this with suppliers and manufacturers to get advice, to reduce the risk of slipping whilst using the handrail.



Immediate Action

Please take your time in getting in & out of plant and assess all working locations to ascertain in the weather conditions increases the risk. Always maintain 3 points of contact with the steps & handrails

Points to note:

- **Maintain 3 points of contact at all times and slide your hand along the handrail during descent or ascent rather than lifting it off and regripping as you climb or descend.**
- **Ensure that handrails are dry where possible, using hand towels if necessary to dry off.**
- **If handrails are fitted with or without textured coatings or nonslip grips ensure these are in good condition.**
- **Do ensure gloves you may be wearing are suitable for the task, some have better grip than others.**
- **Always wear all PPE including hard hats when exiting machines.**

- **Remember always maintain 3 points of contact when climbing in and out of machines. Always wear appropriate PPE, including hard hats when working at height**