

PROBLEM

Tarpping Related Fall Injuries to Drivers



What happened:

Covering a load to protect it during transit can be dangerous. Falling off the load or trailer is no small matter. Following are summaries of fall injuries sustained while covering and uncovering loads with tarps. These examples are just a few of the many tarpping related fall injuries experienced every year by Washington state truck drivers. Of the injuries summarized, the shortest amount of time lost from work was two months. Companies and drivers can't afford these types of injuries.

True Stories....

- A 49-year-old driver on his truck tarpping a load fell off when the wind blew the tarp. He landed on his right shoulder, spraining it and developing serious complications. *Workers' compensation costs were \$170,000, including 227 weeks of time-loss.*
- A 40-year-old driver tarpping a load of wood chips fell from the catwalk of a trailer and landed on his left outstretched arm, breaking his wrist. *Workers' compensation costs were \$9,000, including 8 weeks of time-loss.*
- A 45-year-old driver on his truck tarpping a load of steel tubing fell to the pavement when the heel of his boot caught on a load strap. He sprained his neck, shoulder, and back. *Workers' compensation costs were \$28,000, including 40 weeks of time-loss.*
- A 31-year-old driver taking a cord off of a tarp on top of a load of plywood slipped and fell 10 feet to the ground, spraining and fracturing his right ankle. *Workers' compensation costs were \$18,000, including 12 weeks of time-loss.*

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SOLUTION

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