



# RISK REMINDER

June 2024

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Company: \_\_\_\_\_

## Tarping Pointers and Safety Tips

In the trucking industry, there are many hazards facing drivers each day. One of the most common types of injury, but also one of the most serious types is injuries caused from slips, trips and falls while tarping loads.

### COMMON CAUSES OF INJURY WHILE TARPING

- Slippery wet conditions that can cause a fall
- Windy conditions (having the tarp “get away from you”)
- Extremely heavy tarp material
- Driver fatigue
- Mis-step while climbing on or walking on load which causes fall
- No help to tarp the load



### TARPING SAFETY TIPS

- Whenever possible, avoid standing on the load while tarping.
- If you must climb and stand on the trailer or load, never climb up on the tires or from the side of the trailer. Use a ladder or the steps and handrails of the truck to climb safely. Remember to use 3-point contact while climbing.
- Install and use mechanical tarps, (such as roll tops), which allows for you to stand on the ground.
- Utilize fixed catwalks & loading platforms for tarping. An old worn out flatbed with good decking can be easily converted into a tarping platform by adding handrails and steps.
- Ask for help.
- Don't second-guess the weather. Take your time and tarp your load properly before leaving the yard (beside or in a building and out of the wind).
- Never stop to tarp a load on the side of busy highway. This usually means the tarping will be rushed and rushing can cause falls and other accidents.
- Wear ankle- supporting boots with slip-resistance soles. Never wear sandals or cowboy boots.
- Use lightweight tarps when available.

#### TRUE OR FALSE:

1. Cowboy boots or sandals are fine for climbing onto the trailer while tarping a load.
2. It is safe to climb up on a trailer using the tires to step up.
3. Standing on top of the load is the safest way to tarp a load.