

Injured Knee Exiting Bus

Safety Alert

Issue #:07-2017

Enform

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Description of Incident:

Workers were leaving a worksite on a bus. One worker went to shut the gate. As he was exiting the bus, his right foot lost traction on the steps and slipped forward, causing his left leg to bend at the knee.

What Caused It?

During the investigation it was found that the worker did not use the handrail while descending the stairs. Though the conditions outside were muddy, the steps and walkways of the bus were cleaned throughout the day. The worker did not recognize the possible hazard of slipping while descending the stairs. He tore a ligament and partially fractured his left kneecap. Surgery was required to correct his injuries.



The mud that was on the bus steps at the time of the incident.



The position that the worker landed in when he slipped descending the steps.

Contributing Factors:

- Closing the gate was not part of his regular job, as this was the lead hand's job.
- The worker did not recognize the possible hazard of slipping while descending the stairs because this was part of his regular routine and complacency may have set in.
- Several contributing factors could also impact the severity of the injury and force of the fall, such as a person's height, weight and nature of the fall.

Corrective/Preventative Actions:

- Remind all workers of the importance of using the handrails when ascending and descending steps.
- Parking in an alternate location with even ground to walk on and less muddy areas.
- Crews were reminded about the risks associated with becoming complacent on routine tasks.

By industry, for industry

