

Working at height

Fall from trailer bed - dislocated ankle

An operator working on a landscaping site loaded a lawnmower onto the tilted bed of a plant trailer.

After he had lowered the trailer bed back into the level and locked travel position, he climbed back up onto the trailer bed to adjust and secure the mower.

While standing in the bed of the trailer, he took a step backward and tripped, falling over the side of the trailer. As he fell his right foot became trapped under the mower. He landed on the road and lacerated his head. His trapped foot wrenched under the mower and dislocated at the ankle.

The operator was working alone at the time.

He was able to get himself up and lean against the trailer and phone his near-by colleagues for assistance.



Slips Trips and Falls
Stand up against it!



50% of all major injuries are as the result of a Slip Trip and Fall.
Reduce the number of Slips Trips and Falls on our worksites by a half,
– reduce the number of major injuries on our worksites by 25%.

His injury required surgery, including the fitting of supporting steel pins in the ankle. He will be unable to return to his normal work duties for some time

What can we learn?

Equipment selection

Ensure your trailer is the correct configuration and size for your use. If you are required to undertake any work while on your trailer bed, consider using a trailer which can be fitted with high mesh sides which will prevent you falling from it.

3-point contact

When climbing onto and off your machines and trailers, always maintain three-point contact.

When you are securing or unsecuring machinery, loading or unloading any tools or equipment on trailer beds, stand down on the ground where you can have clear and secure footing.

Drop the trailer side doors if required.

Do not undertake any work standing in an open trailer bed.

Safety footwear

All safety footwear conforms to the EN ISO 20145:2011 standard for the type and level of personal protection they afford.

As well as the basic Safety Boot (fitted with protective caps tested to withstand 200 joule impact force), safety footwear can come with additional recognised and tested protective safety features.

Protective quality	Abbreviation
Safety Boot	SB
Penetration resistance	P
Water resistant	WR
Slip resistant soles	SR
Ankle protection	AN

Consider the work tasks you will be undertaking and the terrain you will be working on when selecting safety footwear and what levels of protection you want your boots to give you.

We recommend boots with open cleats and slip resistant soles, such as 'Vibram' and ankle protection, for most outdoor work tasks.

While the operator was wearing safety footwear with steel toe caps.

Boots fitted with ankle protection may have prevented or lessened the extent of his injuries.



Operators safety boots without full height ankle support

