



GENERAL SAFETY – BACKING INTO TROUBLE

Think about the following scenarios and see if you have ever been in a similar position:

An employee was inside a truck removing empty drums onto the truck's elevator tailgate and lowering it. Another employee was removing the drums and sending the elevator tailgate back up.

The employee inside the vehicle had his back to the tailgate and he pulled the next drum towards the tailgate which he thought was even with the bed of the truck. As he swung the drum into place and stepped onto what was now open space, he fell off the truck onto the lowered gate.

Following him down was the drum he was moving, and he sustained additional injuries.

Two errors in judgment caught up with the victim. First, he **ASSUMED** that the tailgate had been returned to a safe position. Despite the fact that he was moving a heavy, bulky item, he did not check to make sure of his safe positioning.

Secondly, he was **WORKING UNWISELY**. He moved backwards with a heavy object. There is always the danger that the load may get out of control and cause an injury. A load should always be in front so you can see where you are going, and so you will be in the clear if the load gets away from you.

When you are on foot, it is always dangerous to move backwards, particularly when handling materials. It is quicker and safer to move in a forward direction. Avoid moving backwards whenever you can. If you must move in a backward direction, check your path before you move and as often as possible while moving.

BE SAFE OUT THERE!