



Irving Materials, Inc.

# Safety Topics

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'Senility Prayer'

...God grant me...The senility to forget the people I never liked The good fortune to run into the ones that I do And the eyesight to tell the difference.'

Have a great month!!!!!!

(I just had a birthday, ugh!)

## Look Before You Leap

All too often accidents on our jobsites are caused by workers who fail to "look." One of the most important and basic principles of accident prevention on any job is to look where you walk, stand, sit or climb. You may have heard of the bricklayer who stepped back to admire his work, only to fall off the scaffolding! How about the man and his daughters that were riding 4-wheelers across mining property and one of the 4-wheelers fell in an old ventilation shaft? How about one of our own who was crushed by a backing truck? It is very important to look before stepping in any direction. You might step into a pile of scrap lumber, into an open trench, in the path of a moving piece of equipment, onto uneven ground or under a swinging load. The title of this article says it all. I sincerely hope that no one would **leap** off of any elevated surface. It cannot be stressed enough that being observant of your surroundings could prevent many injuries.

In 2007 our most severe injuries in Indiana involve stepping off of something. 6 of 11 lost time injuries involve: "stepped off of truck", "fell off of truck", "stepped off of truck" (yes, there are two), "lost balance, stepped hard on ground", "caught foot stepping off truck", "twisted knee stepping off".

On most construction jobs and plant sites, conditions change continuously; materials and equipment are constantly handled and moved about. Look up, look down, and look all around and make certain the way is clear and you are avoiding all hazards. A big majority of our work force climbs up on and down off of something every day and multiple times each day. So we have lots of opportunities to have problems. Eliminate the hazards by being observant and cautious.

Everyone must be involved in cleaning or housekeeping duties on the job, sometimes scrap is thrown into a pile or from an elevated location. Material should not be thrown at anytime, but we can't control most jobsites that we visit. Materials should be lowered carefully or removed with material handling equipment. Workers should look before they walk in areas where clean-up work is under way. Most importantly, never walk under suspended loads. Be alert and look up. Falling material will cause serious injuries.

Some of you may have heard of people being injured because they failed to watch where they were stepping. Test a platform before you step onto it; be sure your ladder is secure before climbing it; be sure the way is clear before stepping down. If work areas are poorly lighted, be especially cautious. Look carefully at the ground before you dismount your equipment. The process can begin by considering where you park the equipment.

Stay alert, look about you constantly and don't rush or take chances, because those few minutes you save may cost you your lifestyle--or your life!

Remember, someone who rushes in headlong, could come out feet first!



The Goal Is Clear!  
2007 As Our Safest Year!!

### For What It Is Worth!

#### A True Story!

Recently a routine police patrol was parked outside a bar in Rogers, Arkansas. After last call the officer noticed a man leaving and appearing to be so intoxicated that he could barely walk.

The man stumbled around the parking lot for a few minutes with the officer quietly observing. After what seemed an eternity in which he tried his keys on five different vehicles, the man managed to find his car and fall into it.

He sat there for a few minutes as a number of other patrons left the bar and drove off. Finally he started the car, switched the wipers on and off (it was a fine, dry night) flicked the blinkers on and off a couple of times, honked the horn and then switched on the lights. He moved the vehicle forward a few inches, reversed a little and then remained still for a few minutes as more of the other patrons' vehicles left.

At last, when his was the only car left in the parking lot, he pulled out and drove slowly down the road.

The police officer, having waited patiently all this time, now started up his patrol car, put on the flashing lights, promptly pulled the man over and administered a breathalyzer test.

To his amazement, the breathalyzer indicated no evidence that the man had consumed any alcohol at all! Dumbfounded, the officer said, "I'll have to ask you to accompany me to the station. This breathalyzer must be broken."

The man who had been stopped proudly announced, "I doubt it. Tonight I am the designated decoy."

Thanks to Melinda Nixon at Muncie for this funny!!

**imi**  
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