

PF Olsen Toolbox Safety Alert 97

Date: December 2025	Focus Group: All Staff and Contractors
Topic: Working at Height – Points of Contact	Issued by: Nic Steens

Background: A Quality Controller climbed onto the rear tray of a stationary Ute to retrieve oil and then jumped down, landing on a large roading rock (100 mm) situated on the berm. The uneven surface caused her ankle to roll inward, resulting in a lost time injury.

Injury Details: The employee was transported to hospital, where a fractured ankle was discovered, requiring admission and surgery.

Risk Awareness: Jumping or stepping from vehicles instead of using three points of contact (or all available contact points) significantly increases the risk of sprains or fractures, especially on uneven, loose, or obstructed surfaces. Routine tasks can mask hazards, and the normalisation of risk has often led to serious injuries.

Safe Behaviours:

- Always use three points of contact (or all available contact points) when accessing or egressing vehicles or machinery.
- Step down carefully onto stable, level ground; check the landing zone for rocks, debris, or uneven surfaces. Never jump.
- Treat all vehicle access and egress as a “hazardous manual task”, regardless of perceived risk or routine nature – see ACOP section 3.5.63.
- Report any hazards around vehicle trays, load-out areas, or berms so risks can be mitigated for everyone.

For Site Manager:

Print and complete the following:

1. Discuss with employees/operators:
2. Place on-site notice board or in file:

Site Manager: _____ **Date:** / /
(initials)

