## Truck Tarping Stats and Facts



## **FACTS**

- 1. The transporting loads often involves installing tarps to protect them. With loads such as aggregates, you often need tarps to prevent material from flying out of the truck box.
- 2. While tarps can do a lot to safeguard and secure whatever they cover, they?re not immune to the elements. In adverse weather conditions, tarps can come loose, snap wildly, and cause real harm.
- 3. Tarping is the process of covering a load of a flatbed trailer with a tarp. Although it's best done using automated tarping equipment, these machines aren't always available, which means the truck driver must do the work manually.
- 4. Manual tarping is an awkward and dangerous activity. It can break bones, cause dangerous falls, cause a driver to be crushed, or lead to a truck accident.
- 5. Tarps are floppy, cumbersome, and can weigh over a hundred pounds. They can also catch the wind and knock the trucker off a ladder or off the top of the load. The fall distance can be 10 or 15 feet, depending on the height of the load.
- 6. Tarping may require standing on top of the tarped load. If you must do your work on top of a load, take care not to place your weight on voids, and keep your center of gravity low by crawling.

## **STATS**

- Falls from 8 percent of all injuries in trucking come from tarping. With only 14 percent of total trucking miles coming from flatbed operations—where most tarping occurs.
- One regional trucking company revealed tarp-handling injuries made up 20 percent of the company's typical injuries—a significant statistic because the company tarps only 30-40 percent of its truck loads. The company reduced its frequency of tarp-handling injuries per million miles by 30 percent during a three-year period. The result: a direct savings of approximately \$50,000.
- Many injuries occur in trucking, but the totals include overexertion and repetitive motion injuries as well as injuries from falls. Specific causes for truck falls reports that 8% of all injuries in trucking are related to

- tarping/untapping operations.
- Where truckers park performs tiedown/tarping and adjust the load, 14 of 36 drivers said, ?a concrete apron near the loading dock? and 17 said ?parking area near the facility.? 86% of drivers interviewed perform these potentially hazardous tasks in the open, away from the loading dock. This compares with the responses from shippers, 64% of whom said one of these two locations was where drivers/helpers performed the tarping function.