



SAFETY UNLIMITED, INC.

# Safety Tip of the Week

## Loading Dock Safety

Loading docks are a hub of activity in manufacturing plants, warehouses, industrial buildings, and distribution centers. In most companies, this is the primary location of movement of product in and out of a facility.

### Loading Dock Hazards:

- Slips, trips and falls caused by floor conditions, poor housekeeping, or dock edge;
- Forklifts overturning;
- Pedestrian and powered truck collision;
- Trailer creep, which can cause a gap between the trailer and dock;
- Moving unsecured loads;
- Struck by and being crushed by an object or load;
- Back injuries from improper lifting or carrying;
- Inadequate lighting especially in the trailer; and
- Carbon monoxide exposure from truck and powered material-handling equipment.



### Controlling Loading Dock Hazards:

- Shutting off engine and engage the break while loading or unloading vehicle;
- Preventing trailer creep by using wheel chocks and vehicle restraints;
- Painting the edges of the loading dock to improve visibility;
- Providing physical barriers at dock edges when not in use;
- Ensuring dock plates have appropriate capacity, stability, and proper placement;
- Preventing employees from riding on material handling equipment;
- Providing adequate lighting at the dock and in trailers;
- Shrink-wrapping loose product for transport or storage; and
- Maintaining good housekeeping and cleaning up the area regularly.

**SAFETY RULES ARE YOUR BEST TOOLS!!**