

SAFETY ALERT



AUSTRALIAN STEEL INSTITUTE
SAFETY GROUP

"Sharing incident learnings amongst ASI member companies"

"A vision of a safer steel industry"

Number:	SA0019
Subject:	Slip and fall from forklift
Date:	October 2006

Incident:

- Forklift operator parked 16t forklift and proceeded to exit while facing out from cabin.
- Forklift operator was unable to hold onto handrail as he was facing away from steps.
- When the forklift operator stepped onto the top step he lost his footing due to the slippery step and light grease on his shoes.
- The forklift operator fell 1.1metre to the ground, landing on his back and breaking his thumb in the process.



Key Lessons:

- Always use handrail provided when entering and exiting.
- Always face towards the steps when entering or exiting.
- Ensure minimum three paws contact, i.e. combination of hands and feet (see picture).



Recommendations:

- Report slippery steps and if anti-slip tape is missing.
- Practice three paws – on stairs and also on ladders.

For further information please contact **Ian Cairns** – National Safety Group Co-ordinator:
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