

Tarping and falls

Don't forget to protect yourself from falling if you have to adjust, remove, or apply a tarp from the top of your load. Use an appropriate fall-protection system when you're:

- Working more than 10 feet above a lower level
- · Working above dangerous equipment

What's an appropriate fall-protection system?

Examples include beam and trolley systems, automated tarping systems, access platforms, horizontal lifeline systems, and any personal fall-arrest or restraint gear you need to use with the system. These systems will protect you when you're receiving or delivering a load.

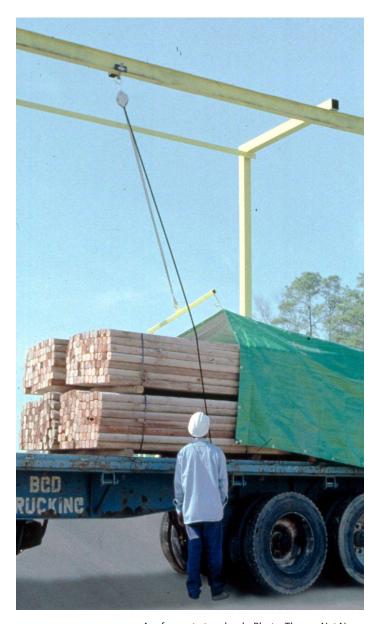
The safest tarping system is one that keeps you off the truck and eliminates any chance that you could fall.

Protecting yourself at your employer's facility

Your employer must provide an appropriate fall protection system or method and train you how to use it.

Protecting yourself at a host employer's facility

The fixed-site employer is responsible for providing a means to use fall protection when you come on site and need to tarp or untarp loads. They need to inform you of its existence and make it available to you. Your employer is responsible for providing fall protection equipment and train you how to use it. This is consistent with Oregon OSHA's multi-employer workplace guidelines.



A safe way to tarp loads. Photo: Thomas Net News

Protecting yourself when you're on the road

It may be difficult or impossible to use fall protection when you're on the road. Situations when fall protection may not be possible include:

- · Vehicle inspections
- · Roadside repairs
- Service work
- Construction sites

Use safe work practices when fall protection systems are not available.



Tarping a chip van Photo: Virginia Cooperative Extension

Tarping safe practices

If you need to get on the load to adjust, remove, or apply a tarp:

- · Wear non-skid shoes and safety glasses.
- Use a ladder to get to the top of your load.
- Don't lift with your back when you position the tarp.
- Look for gaps and cracks on the top of the load so that you don't trip over them when you're unrolling the tarp.
- Stay as close to the centerline of the load as possible when you're unrolling the tarp.
- · Make sure the tie-downs are not worn or damaged.
- Roll tarps properly when you put them away. A loosely rolled tarp is hard to handle.

When possible:

- Go to a truck stop or another safe area don't just pull to the side of the road.
- Position and unroll the tarp from the end of the load. This
 will allow you to push the tarp while unrolling.
- · Get a forklift operator to load your tarps for you.

More information

- Oregon rules for fall protection, Subdivision 2/I, 437-002-0134(5)(a)
- □ Letter of interpretation: <u>Fall protection for drivers</u> working on top of loaded chip trailers
- □ Letter of interpretation: <u>Fall protection and vehicle maintenance</u>
- ₽ Program directive: Multi-employer workplace citation guidelines

The Technical Section of Oregon OSHA produced this fact sheet to highlight health and safety programs and rules.

The information is intended to supplement the rules and provide best practices to employers.



