

# IT REALLY HAPPENED

True Stories  
Real Truck Drivers  
Serious Injuries



## Crawl on the Haul



*Image does not depict actual event in narrative*

A 53 year-old truck driver sustained a severe head injury when he fell off a slippery load.

The driver was placing a tarp over the top of a loaded flatbed trailer. It started to rain, and the driver found himself standing on a wet, slick load. He took a step and slipped, plunging headfirst almost 11 feet onto the asphalt road.

Nearby off-duty emergency medical technicians saw the driver fall and came to give him first aid. He was bleeding heavily from a deep scalp

wound. An ambulance took him to the emergency room. Medical exams showed the driver got a concussion when his head hit the ground.

The driver has yet to fully recover from his injuries and continues to suffer from headaches, disorientation, concentration and memory loss.

After months of medical treatment he has still not been released to work.

### TIPS TO LIVE BY

#### Management

- Make sure drivers are trained in safe tarping techniques.
- Mandate the use of mechanical tarping aids or fall protection whenever possible.

#### Drivers

- If possible, tarp loads only in areas protected from the weather.
- If possible, stay off the load entirely.
- Never stand or walk on the load or tarp, crawl on it instead.
- If possible, use a fall arrest system in a dedicated tarping area.
- Use tarping stations that customers make available.
- Wear anti-slip footwear that is appropriate for the weather conditions.
- Wear calks if you are working on top of logs.

#### All Employees

- Actively look for hazards and share injury prevention ideas with management.



Washington State Department of  
Labor & Industries

TIRES is a project of the Safety & Health Assessment & Research for Prevention (SHARP) program of the Washington State Department of Labor & Industries. TIRES is supported in part by CDC/NIOSH grant# U60 OH008487. For more information and free training resources visit

[KeepTruckingSafe.org](http://KeepTruckingSafe.org)