

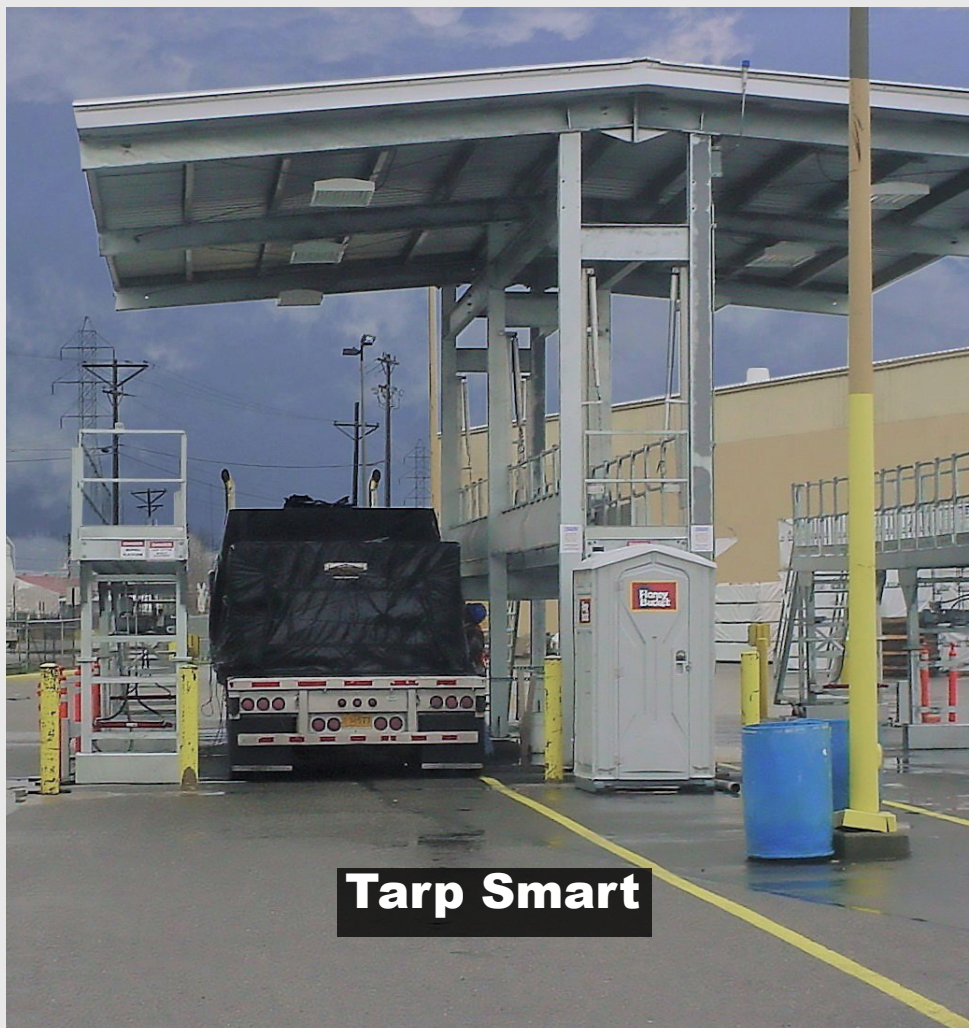
# TIP SHEET

A series of health and safety tips to prevent work-related injuries in the trucking industry



## TIPS TO LIVE BY

### Don't Fall for It



**Tarp Smart**

*Tarping station in use*

Tarping a load to protect it during transit is hard work. It can be dangerous too. Every year many Washington state truck drivers fall and are injured while tarping and untarping loads on their trucks. Heavy tarps, uneven loads, wind, rain, and ice increase the risk of falling. How does one safely manage tarping without falling? The following tips can help.

### These injuries don't just happen



Washington State Department of  
Labor & Industries

### To prevent falls while tarping loads

- Carry a ladder to access the top of the load.
- Use tarping stations that customers make available.
- Equip dump trucks with auto tarping systems.
- Share techniques or tricks with other drivers.
- Use a forklift to get tarps on top of the load, but don't ride the forks along with the tarp.
- Roll tarps forward, not backwards, which keeps edges and voids visible.
- Consider using or upgrading to curtain vans.

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)

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