

SAFETY TRAINING TALK

Date

TOPIC: Look before you Leap!

Last month an accident occurred at another jobsite that could easily happen here.

A driver pulled up to an account. He sat in his vehicle for a minute or so, gathered his paperwork together, then he opened his door and started to hop out.

Just then another van pulled up along side of him. The other driver didn't expect him to throw open his door and jump out. Well, you know what happened next - the van hit the door and nearly broke it off its hinges.

It turned into quite a serious accident - not only was the door mangled, the window broke, the mirrors were destroyed, the door cowling was bent, and the front quarter panel was crimped.

Fortunately the driver didn't get injured in the process. But you can imagine that it would have only taken a millisecond, one way or the other, and there could easily have been a serious injury as well.

So, once again. The difference between safely doing something - and an accident - is only a matter of a few brief seconds. It could happen to any of us. Or could it?

What could the driver have done to prevent the accident? Obviously he could/should have looked before opening his door. He shouldn't have assumed the coast was going to be clear.

The same holds true in many other tasks. Don't **jump** out of a vehicle, off a ramp, or off a piece of equipment. The extra time it takes to get out or off slowly and safely is literally only a few very brief seconds.

Here's another example. When someone started to load a handtruck with cases there was no one around. But by the time he had all the cases loaded up and started to push it towards the door, a customer was on their way out carrying an armful of bags. Neither one could see the other, and both assumed anyone coming toward them would be able to see them. **WRONG!**

Even if they don't collide, there's a good chance one of them is going to lose their load. And, you can be sure, it'll be your fault. At least in the customer's eyes.

Being safety conscious means looking before leaping. Even if the coast was clear just a moment or two before. Get in the habit of double checking. And remember, we can prevent accidents by anticipating what can go wrong and planning accordingly.

Next, discuss any specific safety hazards you want everyone to be aware of - then have everyone sign the back of this sheet.