

MANUFACTURING SAFETY ALERT

Ask Yourself
“Could it happen here?”

DESCRIPTION OF EVENT

Winter Falls

During a night shift in blizzard conditions, an equipment operator exited their machine to replace a radio battery.

The deck was covered in snow, causing them to lose their footing and their hand slipped off the rails. They fell about 10 feet to the ground, landing on their side.

Despite the fall, the operator was able to stand and notify coworkers. They were transported to the hospital and were treated for minor injuries.



MOST IMPORTANT TAKE AWAY

Snowy conditions make walking surfaces slippery and reduce visibility, increasing the risk of incidents.

REMEMBER: Don't rush. Take the time to address hazardous conditions before proceeding.

SUGGESTED ACTIONS

- **Clear Snow and Ice:** Keep steps, decks and handrails free of snow and ice to prevent slips.
- **Use Anti-Slip Materials:** Where possible, apply anti-slip tape or mats on steps and decks to improve traction.
- **Handrails:** Make sure handrails provide support and inspect them regularly for damage or deficiencies.
- **Three-Point Contact:** Always use at least three points of contact when entering or exiting equipment.
- **Gloves with Grip:** Wear gloves that provide extra grip when exiting or entering equipment, especially in snowy or wet conditions.
- **Know Emergency Procedures:** Be familiar with first aid and emergency procedures and follow them to assist an injured worker quickly and safely.

