

# TOOL BOX TALKS

## Ambulance

### Healthcare Slip, Trip, and Fall Prevention



Two emergency medical technicians were moving a patient strapped to a cot from a residence to the ambulance. One of the technicians stepped off the porch and missed two steps injuring his lower back and both knees.

#### Crew Safety Discussion Points

1. Wear safe footwear. Proper footwear provides ankle support, a protective toe and a sole with slip-resistant properties.
2. Watch out for curbs and gutter areas in the road.
3. Scan the scene for walking surface hazards.
4. Activate the front, side and rear scene lights for all night work.
5. Don't pile bags and rescue tools in the "action area" of a rescue. Keep nonessential tools organized and out of the way.
6. Keep your feet clear when back boarding or removing patients from the vehicle.
7. Be on alert when boarding or moving patients for awkward postures, prolonged static postures and twisting. Get plenty of help and don't make one rescuer bear all of the load.
8. Transport the cot to the scene via the safest route and do not run.
9. Use three-point contact when entering and exiting the ambulance cab or patient care area. At the rear of the ambulance, keep one door closed and use it as a handle.
10. Avoid stepping down into a hole or pavement edge and do not jump.

**Patient safety starts with crew safety.**

**If you're not safe, neither are your patients.**

*These advisory materials have been developed from national standards and sources believed to be reliable, however, no guarantee is made as to the sufficiency of the information contained in the material and Missouri Employers Mutual Insurance Company assumes no liability for its use. Advice about specific situations should be obtained from a safety professional.*

#### For more information:



[www.worksafecenter.com](http://www.worksafecenter.com)



1.888.499.SAFE (7233)

Missouri Employers Mutual

**Work SAFE**