

FOR ISSUE TO ALL OPERATIONAL VEHICLE DRIVERS

SHE ALERT

RTC CLASS 1 ACCOUNTABLE – UNSECURED STEP LADDER FALL FROM VEHICLE

An electrician working for Enterprise Contracting drove away without securing his step ladder to the roof rack which resulted in the step ladder falling from the moving vehicle into the carriageway.



What Happened?

An electrician was carrying out routine emergency lighting testing for a food production company, at around midday he was asked by the site contact to remove his steps from site when not in use so they were not left unattended. Our electrician returned them to the ladder rack of his vehicle but did not secure them as he planned to place them inside the rear of his vehicle at the end of his working day.

At the end of his working day he returned to his vehicle, placed all his tools in the vehicle via the side loading door, then entered the cab and after the normal driving checks proceeded to leave the site. After approx. 200 yards he slowed to ensure the way ahead was safe and clear as he was about to climb a hill in a narrow lane which was used by large lorries feeding the site. After determining it safe to proceed he began to increase speed and was travelling at about 10 – 15 mph uphill, it is at this point his unsecured stepladder slid off of the ladder rack falling onto the road behind him.

The step ladders were quickly recovered without damage to our vehicle and no third parties were involved, the steps were damaged beyond repair



What action is required?

Always secure any load when placing it on any type of vehicle, irrespective of how long it will be there. Lapses in concentration may mean that securing at a later time is omitted, potentially allowing the load to fall from the vehicle. A serious incident involving other road users or pedestrians may occur

Use proprietary load securing devices such as ladder clamps or ratchet straps to ensure complete security of loads.

Everyone

- Check the security of loads before **every** journey, never leave loads unsecured on vehicles for any reason.
- On long journeys re-check the load when stopping for breaks to ensure it hasn't moved or come loose.

Supervisor

- Ensure your teams carry out checks on loads before every journey, highlighting the wording of the Daily Vehicle Check Sheets "**Check roof rack & load secure (before every journey)**".
- Discuss the correct methods of securing loads to vehicles.
- Carry out checks to determine what methods have been employed to secure all loads.

Manager

- Set high standards, review Daily Vehicle Checklists to ensure compliance and ensure all operational vehicles have the correct load securing devices.

Communication by (✓)	LSG	✓	Notice board	✓	Tool-box talk	✓	Team brief	✓
Communication complete by (✓)	1 week		2 weeks	✓	1-month		2-months	

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