

# ESA Launch Introduction

This month's ESA Situational Awareness theme is associated with maintaining three points of contact '3POC' when entering and exiting waste collection vehicles.

Falling or causing injury while accessing or egressing vehicles or equipment is a common incident across the waste sector. This is based on two factors, firstly not maintaining three points of contact and secondly not being situationally aware of the environmental hazards such as the ground conditions being stepped onto i.e., not visually inspecting for signs of potholes, curbs, or uneven ground.

The three points of contact rule is simple. When climbing or descending vehicles which is the same for items of mobile plant and equipment, always maintain contact with one hand and two feet, or two hands and one foot. If you maintain three points of contact while you climb, you can limit your exposure to slips and falls.



There are other factors that contribute to these incidents all of which are preventable. Employees should check footwear and gloves for contamination or debris that would cause their hand or foot to slip from the rial or step; ensure access equipment is free from any damage and inspected regularly with defects reported.

Having situational awareness means we will constantly observe our surroundings which may have changed and will be the first step to reduce the risk of a fall, where our three points of contact will be our control to avoiding injury.

Available through the QR code is a short video clip that can be used as a toolbox talk that covers the risks associated with incorrectly accessing and egressing vehicle cabs without using three points of contact or being situationally aware of any environmental hazards present.

Alongside this we have produced a poster to display at sites to promote this month's theme within your organisation and a huddle card (see attached). The huddle card is a resource designed to accompany the toolbox talk, giving safety leaders pointers for discussion, and encouraging your teams to share their thoughts, experiences, and opinions.

**Situational awareness is continuously **assessing** your surroundings, identifying any **potential hazards** which will inform your **decision making** on how to carry out your work safely.**

## HUDDLE CARD

# Three points of contact '3POC'

## Huddle discussion

Wherever we work and whatever our role, we all share a common goal, keeping ourselves and others safe.

Introduce and show the video. After showing the video use this huddle card to generate a conversation about the theme, confirm understanding and seek collective feedback.



## No job is so important we cannot take time and do it safely

- ▶ What do we check before accessing or egressing vehicles?
- ▶ What do we mean by having three points of contact? What's its purpose?
- ▶ How would you describe situational awareness?
- ▶ What could cause us to fall when using access steps and handles?

## We look out for and trust each other

- ▶ Would you challenge a colleague for not following the three points of contact rule?
- ▶ Have you or a colleague been involved in an incident when accessing/egressing vehicles? Was this due to not maintaining 3POC or not being fully situationally aware of the environment your stepping out onto?

## We share and seek ideas for improvement

- ▶ Have you any ideas as to how we can reduce incidents relating to 3POC?
- ▶ How would you report a near miss or hazardous situation?



← Scan the QR code to access the digital campaign content

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