

SAFETY ALERT

USARC SAFETY SENDS

M1083A2 Equipment Related Fatality



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Recently, an Active Component platoon loaded water cans and sandbags into the cargo bed of a M1083A2 FMTV. While loading, the vehicle's suspension depressed under the weight, lowering the height of the cargo bed, and pinning the rear loading ladder to the ground. In an effort to free the ladder, a Soldier positioned themselves underneath the vehicle's rear axle skid plate and kicked the ladder to dislodge it. The ladder's release placed sudden weight onto the suspension, and the skid plate depressed, fatally injuring the Soldier.

Soldier Tasks:

- Adhere to Technical Manual directives concerning safe operation of ALL Army equipment.
- Do not work underneath Army equipment when only the equipment's own suspension supports it.
- Chock the Wheels: Securely place heavy-duty wheel chocks both in front of and behind the tires on the axle not being lifted.
- Do Not Rely on Hydraulic Jacks: Bottle jacks or floor jacks are lifting devices, never holding devices. They can bleed pressure or tip over.
- Mandatory Cribbing / Jack Stands: Mandatory Cribbing / Jack Stands: Support the vehicle frame by jack stands or wood cribbing blocks rated for adequate minimum capacity per stand.
- Verify Support Points: Ensure jack stands are under designated, structural frame lift points—never under steering components, fuel tanks, or oil pans.
- The "Shake Test": Before crawling underneath, gently rock or push the vehicle from the outside to ensure it is completely stable on its stands and cannot shift.
- ALWAYS wear appropriate PPE (to include ballistic helmet protection) when operating or working with/around wheeled and tracked Army equipment.

Leader Tasks:

- Monitor and enforce the Soldier tasks above.

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