

# **AWO Tankerman Subcommittee:**

## **Vessel Access/Egress Best Practices**

1. Always inspect any means of access prior to use. If something seems wrong, don't use it.
2. Confirm means of access is also suitable for quick use in the event of an emergency.
3. Only use the access means in the intent it was designed (i.e. do not use a ladder as a gangway).
4. Communicate with the dock operator, or other nearby personnel, that you are about to go on/off the vessel. Request that they maintain a visual watch of you for the duration of the task.
5. Utilize cranes, baskets, or tag lines to lower/raise equipment rather than carry it while accessing/exiting the vessel.
6. Never carry tools or equipment when climbing.
7. Wear gloves to protect hands while climbing ladders or transiting gangways.
8. Exercise caution when using a gangway or ladder. Think through every step/rung, don't just go through the motions.
9. Always face the ladder rungs when climbing, and face into the stairwell when using steep stairs.
10. Do not take more than one step at a time when using ladders or gangways.
11. When climbing a ladder, always maintain your body positioning so that your belt buckle stays within the side rails.
12. Only one person on a gangway or ladder at a time.
13. Gangways should be properly secured at both ends.
14. Gangways should be placed at a minimum of 36" from the edge of the vessel and dock.
15. Periodically adjust gangway placement throughout the transfer, if needed.
16. Raise gangway to a safe height when not being used.
17. **Stop Work Authority/Responsibility/Obligation...whatever you call it, make sure your employees feel empowered to USE IT!**