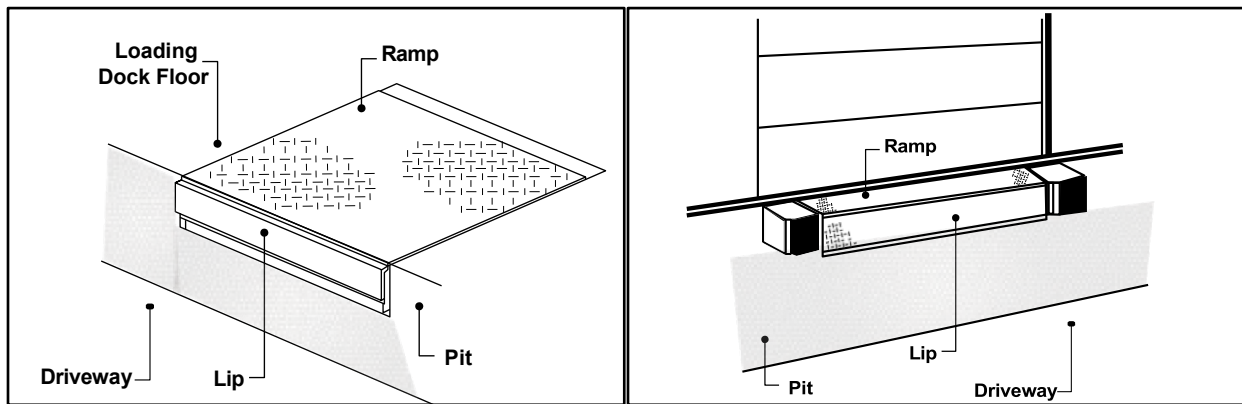


## Safety Note #206 Loading Dock Safety

Loading docks support campus operations by allowing equipment, materials, and supplies to be moved in and out of buildings with minimal inconvenience to occupants. Because of the activities that occur routinely at docks, it is important that the campus community is aware of potential hazards at these areas. Approximately 200 deaths occur every year and 20,000 serious injuries occur at loading dock accidents. 1 out of every 4 warehouse injuries occur at loading docks. This increases the possible risk to you as well as the UC system for safety violations and litigation.



Recessed dock leveler (pit-style)

Edge-of-dock leveler

### Common Dock Hazards

- Falling off unprotected dock edges or gaps
- Collisions with moving equipment or machinery
- Slipping on wet/oily surfaces
- Tripping over stationary items/uneven surface

### Safety Practices at Loading Docks

- Be aware of dock edges at all times
- Check dock surfaces for spills, uneven edges, and stored items that could cause injury
- Wear the appropriate footwear (e.g., slip-resistant soles, safety-toe protection) and other personal protective equipment while working in dock areas
- Do not use docks to enter/exit buildings. Campus docks are designed for loading/unloading activities only
- Use stairways when accessing elevated dock areas to avoid injury. Choose an alternative route if stairways are not available
- Keep the loading areas illuminated at all times to prevent injuries
- Avoid interrupting equipment operators and signal them when you are nearby

### Safety Procedures for Loading and Unloading of Vehicles at Docks

- Shut off the engine and engage the parking brake while loading/unloading
- Whenever a vehicle is parked at the dock, confirm that the wheels of the vehicle are correctly chocked and that the vehicle is appropriately secured to dock with a restraint system before loading/unloading
- If necessary (e.g., operating a forklift or lift truck), use a dock-leveling plates or ramps to provide a stable surface to move materials and prevent falls. Make sure the plates or rams are level with the dock surface

### Measures to Reduce Loading Dock Hazards

- Paint the edges of the loading dock to improve visibility
- Create physical barriers at dock edges, such as guardrails, for general fall protection
- Train employees on dock safety and confirm all forklift operators are certified
- Inspect the dock area, forklifts, ramps, and all other equipment to make sure they are safe and cleared