



Innovation Showcase

2024 “Outstanding Innovation” Winner

Stake Pocket Step Ladder

Submitted By:

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Description:

This innovation was created to aid in gaining safe access to the flat bed of 10 and 11 series trucks. It mounts into stake pockets so it can be moved around the bed of the truck to access different points of the bed and also for storage. The main shaft extends above the bed to be used as a grab bar to maintain three points of contact. In total, a 10’ stick of 2” square tubing, expanded metal, and a discarded buzz bar belt were used to complete this project. The belt was attached to protect the bed from metal on metal damage, and to cushion the mounting point. Expanded metal was welded to each tread step for traction.

How does this Innovation benefit SCDOT?:

The main benefit of this design is safety. Some situations require the crews to gain access to the flat bed of the truck. Sign trucks have mounted racks in some areas, so it had to be mobile. This provides access to climb to the bed and maintain three points of contact while doing it. While not in use, the step is placed in a stake pocket on the rear of the truck out of the driver’s field of view, and it also sits above the bumper line so it cannot get caught. It goes into the stake pocket approximately 6” so the depth and the belt lining holds it in place very well.

