



Fatal Accident – Worker on Foot Struck-by a Forklift

On a nightshift in a poorly lighted area, a worker on foot was working with a forklift operator to verify materials to be moved in a storage yard when he was struck and killed by the forklift with an enclosed cab moving in reverse. The deceased worker was not noticed by the forklift operator until all moves in the area were completed. The forklift was equipped with a back-up alarm and flashing beacon, but they were defective. These items were documented on multiple daily check sheets, but not fixed. Specialized training was not provided for the type of forklift involved. Neither of the workers were trained on the forklift's inherent blind spots. Additionally, employees were not provided with hi-visibility clothing.

Daytime photo of area involved



Approximate location
of the fatality

Recommendations to Prevent Recurrence:

- Remove defective equipment from service immediately. Provide and maintain spare forklifts.
- Conduct a traffic flow risk assessment with workers and their representatives.
- Separate mobile equipment from foot-traffic by installing barrier guards, signage, designated walkways and safety gates.
- Evaluate and improve lighting where mobile equipment is used
- Install and maintain safety devices: traveling vehicle approach warning (blue) spot lights, backup cameras, sensors, mirrors, alarms that can be heard above ambient noise.
- Identify inherent blind spots. Educate and train operators and pedestrians, including the obstructed distances
- Evaluate and improve the maintenance and inspection programs.
- Improve communication methods between equipment operators,. If necessary, position co-workers to act as spotters. Use and maintain radios.
- Ensure that operators, other employees and contractors are adequately trained and evaluated on the specific equipment and operations, including a distance rule and procedures for approaching mobile equipment.
- Provide all employees with a 'Right-To-Act' process and annual retraining. All hourly and salary paid employees should have a procedure to report hazards, stop unsafe or unhealthy tasks and shutdown any process without the fear of retaliation.
- Provide hi-visibility clothing at no-cost to all workers who are exposed to mobile equipment.



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This hazard alert is based on an actual incident, and reflects our best understanding of the incident at the time it was written. However, many incidents have multiple causes; this alert may not cover all of them. The purpose of the alert is to illustrate workplace hazards; it is not intended to be a comprehensive report on the incident.