



Descriptions of compensable fatalities involving forklifts and other industrial power carrier vehicles by industry (NAICS), Oregon, 1997-2006

Information Management Division

Department of Consumer & Business Services

June 2008

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Construction NAICS 23

Framer was crushed by a load of lumber that fell from a forklift driven by a co-worker. The load of lumber (about 2,626 pounds) was being lifted to the second story of a house under construction and was extended beyond the ability of the rough-terrain-type forklift to counterbalance. The forklift upended, causing the load to shift and fall onto the victim, who was guiding the forklift driver while standing on a ladder through a stairwell hold. The worker fell eight feet. The victim was wearing a hard hat. (Investigated by Oregon OSHA)

Forklift operator was driving a forklift that rolled over an embankment at a landfill. He attempted to jump clear but was hit on the head by part of the forklift or the load he was carrying. He was not wearing a seat belt. (Occurred in California)

Manufacturing NAICS 31-33

Pre-expander operator was using a forklift to move 2,205-pound "super sacks" of raw polymer beads. The forks pierced the bottom bag (the super sacks were stacked two high), so he got out to repair the leak. As he was trying to repair the hole, the lower bag collapsed, causing the upper bag to fall on him. The victim died of compressional asphyxiation. (Investigated by Oregon OSHA)

Forklift operator was helping load pallets of wood pellets onto a semi-trailer when he stopped to help the truck driver tarp his load. After dismounting the forklift, it somehow slipped into reverse and rolled backward, pinning the worker between the forklift and the trailer. The parking brake was set and the transmission level was positioned in such a way that it slipped into reverse without the back-up alarm sounding. The victim died of crushing injuries to the head and chest. (Investigated by Oregon OSHA)

Wood machine operator was standing between two loaded kiln carts. A forklift was pushing the carts and the driver didn't see the worker. The worker was crushed between the forklift and the carts. (Investigated by Oregon OSHA)

Fabricator, banding the upper portion of trusses, was standing on a work platform attached to a forklift elevated about 14 feet. Another part was needed from a different work area, so the forklift driver drove the forklift in reverse (with the victim still elevated) and made a sharp left turn that unbalanced the forklift, causing it to overturn. The victim fell to the asphalt surface. No fall protection was used. (Investigated by Oregon OSHA)

Grader/feeder was bending down to pick up a piece of wood when a loaded forklift entered the building through a plastic strip-covered forklift door. The driver of the forklift honked the horn before and as she passed through the door. The forklift had a unit of lumber to the front and raised approximately 3 feet off the floor. The driver did not see the victim and the victim did not respond to the honking horn. The victim was hit by the lower portion of the forklift mast and was caught under the load of lumber. Not knowing what had happened, the forklift driver dropped the load to floor level, on top of the victim, crushing the victim to death. (Investigated by Oregon OSHA)

Wholesale Trade NAICS 42

Tow truck driver was standing on the back of a flatbed tow truck (four-car carrier). A crushed car that was being loaded by a forklift onto the upper deck above the cab tipped forward off the forks and fell on the worker, crushing his head. (Investigated by Oregon OSHA)

Warehouse worker was operating a forklift to move items in bulk storage from high shelving to lower floor shelving. It appears that the victim backed the forklift into a storage shelf rail, which intruded into the operator's area of the forklift and pinned him. The forklift was working properly at the time but was not equipped with guard posts. The victim died of crushing chest injuries. (Investigated by Oregon OSHA)

Laborer was helping other workers secure tarps over hay. The victim was standing behind the forklift as it approached the stack of hay. A co-worker accidentally backed over the worker with the 27,000-pound forklift. (Investigated by Oregon OSHA)

Retail Trade NAICS 44-45

Laborer was attempting to make a U-turn with a forklift. He was driving with the forks low to the ground and without a load. As the forklift turned approximately 90 degrees, it became unstable and tipped over. The victim, who was not wearing a seat belt, was ejected from the seat and his head was crushed by the overhead guard that had been installed on the forklift. He died from massive head injuries. (Investigated by Oregon OSHA)

Transportation and Warehousing NAICS 48-49

Forklift operator was using a forklift to load a pallet of metal into a trailer that had been backed into a loading dock. As the victim was entering the back of the trailer, a co-worker pulled the trailer away from the dock, not knowing that the victim was inside. The docking plate dropped and the forklift partially fell out of the trailer. The victim fell out of the forklift when it hit the ground and the pallet of metal fell on top of him. He died seven months later from his injuries. (Investigated by Oregon OSHA)

Finance and Insurance NAICS 52

Forklift operator was driving a forklift with an empty pallet. He made a sharp turn in a vacant parking lot when the forklift became unstable and overturned. The victim tried to jump out as it was falling over, but was caught under the forklift canopy. He was later found by co-workers, pinned underneath the forklift. The forklift had not been fitted with a seat belt, and the victim had not been given adequate instruction regarding lateral or longitudinal tip over. (Investigated by Oregon OSHA)

Health Care and Social Assistance NAICS 62

Paper sorter was walking behind another worker and stepped in front of a moving, loaded forklift. The forklift driver was unable to avoid the victim and backed over him. (Investigated by Oregon OSHA)

Other Services NAICS 81

Shop laborer was getting a chip hauler/trailer ready for some welding and repair. A co-worker, driving a forklift, was removing wood pallets from inside the trailer and bumped the door of the trailer, causing it to come down on the worker. The victim was pinned between the door and the floor of the trailer. (Investigated by Oregon OSHA)

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