

Other Accidents

Employee's Finger Amputated By Forklift Basket

At approximately 2:30 p.m. on August 8, 1997, Employee #1, of Granite Construction Company, was riding in a 4 ft by 8 ft basket mounted on the forks of a JCB extendable reach forklift, model 510-40, vehicle identification #SLO51040 TE 0576351. The basket had 42 in. high guardrails, and the top of the back guard to the lift was also 42 in. As the basket was being lowered to the ground, the front end touched first, lifting it up and pushing the guardrails on the back of the basket toward the forklift. Employee #1 was standing at the back of the basket, with his hand on the back guard, facing the forklift. As the guardrail went back toward the forklift, Employee #1's fingers became pinched against the back rail of the lift. His right ring finger was amputated to the first joint, and he was hospitalized for 2 1/2 days. No violations were associated with this accident

Employee Dies After Fall Dismounting Forklift

Employee #1 was a member of the construction crew on the set of the Warner Brothers' movie "U.S. Marshals." At approximately 5:30 p.m. on June 27, 1997, he was dismounting from the seat of a Yale forklift when he slipped and fell, striking his left rib cage and head on the floor. Employee #1 did not report the fall until the beginning of the next shift on June 28, 1997. He was transferred immediately to a nearby hospital, where he was determined to have internal injuries that required surgery. Employee #1 died on July 11, 1997. He was diabetic and taking a variety of medications for other health-related problems.

Employee Dies of Burns Sustained When Hexane Ignites

Employee #1 was dispensing liquid hexane directly onto hot molds from a hose attached to a rotary hand pump. The hexane was allowed to spill down onto the front of a LP-powered Mitsubishi forklift that was running underneath it. The hexane vapors ignited and Employee #1 sustained third-degree burns. He was killed.

Employee Killed When Caught Between Load Bar and Forklift

At approximately 7:00 p.m. on March 7, 1997, Employee #1, a dockman, was operating a forklift truck. He was stripping a trailer containing common goods that was equipped with load bars of adjustable aluminum that supported the cargo. There were no witnesses to the accident, but a lift truck operator in the next trailer noticed after moving a load from one trailer to another that Employee #1 was in the same position and the truck had not moved. The other operator entered the trailer and discovered that Employee #1's neck had become caught between the load bar and the forklift. Apparently, one side of the load bar had fallen down and Employee #1 attempted to raise it to the top by leaning outside the front of the industrial truck. As he did so, he accidentally knocked the industrial truck

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into gear, which caused the truck to move forward. Employee #1 became trapped between the load bar and the truck. He was killed.

Employees Hospitalized for Carbon Monoxide Poisoning

On July 3, 1997, temporary Employees #1 through #5 were packaging parts when they were overcome by carbon monoxide that was being produced by an lp powered forklift. Employees #1, #2, and #3 were hospitalized. The forklift had a non-functioning exhaust purifier that had been installed in 1993. Ventilation inside the building was poor.

Employee's Hand Injured in Forklift Accident

Employee #1, age 18, was operating a Nissan 5000 LP-powered forklift, model PF02-024255. He had driven up a steep concrete ramp that was 40.5 in. high at the point where it met the feed storage building. The ramp was bordered on the right side by an exterior wall of the adjacent store; the left side of the ramp was open. There were steel sleeves in the concrete along the open side where it appeared a railing had once been installed. The ramp also had two, 2 in. deep, stress cracks across it. After Employee #1 reached the top of the ramp, he drove through the feed storage building to a side exit. He went through the side exit to an outside storage area to pick up an approximately 1,000 lb load of mulch. He then went back through the feed storage building, maneuvered around some pallets, and attempted to go through the front door and onto the ramp. Employee #1 was driving with the load in front of him even though it blocked his vision. He had been told by his coworkers that he should always drive that way because the forklift would slide down the ramp very fast if he went backward. The truck was halfway out the door and halfway on the ramp when Employee #1 noticed that the corner of the vehicle between the right front and back tires was up against the door jam. He held onto the overhead protection vertical bar and leaned out of the truck to see how to maneuver because he couldn't see with the load in front of him. The wheels of the forklift truck started to roll. Employee #1 applied the brakes, but the brakes locked and the forklift truck continued to roll. He then pulled the emergency brake and the vehicle went into a slide. He removed his hand from the vertical bar to look around the left side for clearance. He started to put his right hand back on the vertical bar but missed, catching it between the bar and the door jamb. This caused the forklift to stop sliding. Employee #1 then reversed the vehicle a short distance to free his hand. He put the forklift truck into neutral and it rolled forward approximately 6 in. until the pallet hit the outside wall of the adjacent store and the vehicle stopped. Employee #1 dismounted and went for help. He sustained a broken bone and the flesh was torn from his right hand.

Employee Killed When Crushed in Forklift

On June 6, 1997, Employee #1, a forklift operator for GES Roofing, Inc., became pinned between the mast and canopy frame of his vehicle. He was killed.

Employee Sprains Arm After Tripping on Forklift Forks

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Employee #1 was exiting a dimly lit storage area. When he came into the sunlight, he tripped on the forks of a parked forklift and sprained his right arm.

Employee's Arm Injured When Struck By Falling Forklift Mast

Employee #1, a maintenance man for a metal forging plant, was repairing a Hyster H-60 forklift, serial #C5D3772H, with the help of coworkers from shipping and receiving. The chain had fallen off its track and the forklift mast was stuck on the second of its three stages. Employee #1 climbed onto the lift and asked a coworker to block it. A coworker placed a 4 by 6 piece of lumber underneath the forks and then called up to say that this had been done. Employee #1 began working from the side opposite the forks, putting his arm through the mast. As he freed the chain and mast, the mast came down, crushing his left arm. The equipment being repaired was not effectively blocked to prevent movement.

Electric Shock - Contact With Overhead Line Thru Forklift

Four employees were assigned to dismantle a scaffold and move it to another side of a building. The scaffold was five sections high. Because they were left without any direct supervision, the employees decided, after they removed the top two sections, to use a Skytrak forklift to move the scaffold. The employees attached a wire rope to the top of the scaffold and used the forklift to lift the scaffold off the ground. Two of the employees held the scaffold, with one employee on each side of the scaffold to keep it balanced while it was moving. The forklift operator was moving the Skytrak forward when the load backrest extension contacted a 7200-volt, single-phase overhead power line located 9.4 meters above the ground. The ground was wet and muddy. The two employees guiding the scaffold received electric shocks. They were transported to a hospital, where they were pronounced dead of electrocution. The employees had not been aware of the overhead power line.

Employee's Finger Amputated in Forklift Accident

At approximately 2:45 p.m. on April 17, 1997, Employee #1, a truck driver with Vecta Transportation Systems, was picking up some freight at a customer's facility in Bakersfield, CA. He was standing in the back of his truck while a forklift operator from the facility helped him load the freight. Employee #1 placed a 2 by 4 in front of a pallet so the forklift operator could place his forks against the board and push the pallet forward into the truck. The operator engaged the wood before Employee #1 could move his hand. His left ring finger became caught between the board and the pallet, and was amputated at the first knuckle.

Employee Killed When Crushed By Forklift Mast

At approximately 1:00 p.m. on April 2, 1997, Employee #1, a janitor, was working alone, operating a forklift truck. He was attempting to dump a roll of carpet padding into an outside dumpster at the rear of the building. An employee from a company on the other side of the fence observed Employee #1 slouched between the mast of the forklift and the control panel; he was facing toward the forks, with one leg on the controls. Apparently,

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as he placed himself between the mast of the forklift and the control panel to push the carpet padding into the dumpster, he slipped and his foot struck the controls. The mast of the forklift tilted backward, crushing him. Employee #1 was killed.

Employees Become Ill After Inhaling Carbon Monoxide

For several days prior to the incident, workers had been complaining of symptoms such as nausea, vomiting, and headache. On March 20, 1997, Employees #1 through #13 and twelve coworkers were sent to the hospital, where testing revealed elevated levels of carboxyhemoglobin in their blood. The local fire department determined that LPG-powered heating/air conditioning units and two LPG-powered fork trucks were "running rich." The air/fuel mixture was too rich in fuel, rich resulting in incomplete combustion and emissions high in carbon monoxide.

Employee's Toe Amputated Between Pallet and Forklift Frame

Employee #1, an assembler/stocker, had just helped a forklift operator put stock on a shelf. He was on the shelf and the stock prevented him from using the ladder, so he crawled onto the top of the forklift cage. While the pallet was being lowered, his toe became caught between the pallet and the forklift frame, and was amputated.

Employee's Foot Injured Between Curb and Lift Truck

At 10:00 a.m. on February 11, 1997, Employee #1, of Paramount Farms, was operating a Raymond forklift, model 640-040TT, serial #640-96-07451. She was moving a trash bin down an inclined ramp when the speed of the forklift increased dramatically. Employee #1 panicked and took her foot off the operation pedal, causing the forklift to stop abruptly. The machine turned and struck the concrete abutment and railing, trapping her foot between the vehicle and the abutment. Employee #1 sustained a serious injury to her lower left foot.

Employee Fractures Lower Back When Caught in Forklift Parts

At approximately 12:15 a.m. on January 16, 1997, Employee #1 left the operator's position on a forklift and climbed over the right front wheel to gain access to the dump lever of a tilting tub that was elevated on the lift's tines. His foot slipped on the forklift's rain-dampened dashboard and he fell between the mast assembly and the canopy support frame, activating the tilt (rear) control lever. Employee #1 suffered a fractured lower back, for which he was hospitalized.

Employee Suffers Carbon Monoxide Poisoning

At approximately 8:00 a.m. on January 16, 1997, Employee #1 was inspecting 55-gallon drum lines as part of an assignment to inspect and clean the drum after flooding had inundated the building and its contents. Two propane-fueled forklift trucks were moving pallets of drums within the building and from the interior to outside the building. The forklifts spent a good portion of the time parked and idling in the work area. In addition,

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two emergency generators were operating within 100 ft of the work area, just outside the building. Within one hour, Employee #1 began to get a headache. The headache worsened and she became dizzy as the moving progressed; by the morning break, her headache and dizziness were pronounced. At 12:00 noon, when the group took a lunch break, she lost consciousness. Paramedics responded within seven minutes and she was transported to Rideout Hospital, where she was observed and released at 4:20 p.m. the same day.

Employee Killed When Crushed By Gondola

Employee #1 and three coworkers were using forklift trucks to move a large gondola filled with scrapped equipment. Employee #1 stepped between one of the forklift trucks and the gondola to hook up a chain. The two lift trucks at the rear of the load pushed the gondola into Employee #1. He was crushed and killed.

Employee's Fingers Amputated in Forklift Mast

At approximately 9:30 a.m. on January 7, 1997, Employee #1 and his foreman were guiding a forklift operator down a ramp to the basement of a building under construction. The forklift was transporting an electrical switchgear and, as it proceeded down the ramp, Employee #1 climbed onto the vehicle to check for overhead obstructions. He placed his right hand on top of the forklift's mast, between its first and second stage. While he was doing this, the forklift's operator heard someone say "down," and lowered the unit. Employee #1's hand became caught between the two stages of the mast lift as they came together, crushing and amputating his ring and small fingers. Employee #1 was transported to UCLA Medical Center for treatment.

Employee's Fingertip Amputated Between Hopper and Fork

At approximately 10:30 a.m. on December 12, 1996, Employee #1 was unloading a sandblaster from the bed of his Ford Ranger truck at a job site in Sacramento, CA. He parked his truck in the parking area and a coworker positioned his forklift truck behind it. The coworker then raised the extra long forks approximately 24 in. above the ground to meet the tailgate of the truck. A pallet had been placed on the end of the forks, and Employee #1 moved the sandblaster by stepping onto the pallet and rolling the machine sandblaster onto it. He had just stepped back onto the fork, between the pallet and the mast, when his foot slipped off the fork. This caused the sandblaster to shift position, pinching Employee #1's left index finger between the sandblaster hopper and the fork. He suffered the near amputation of his fingertip and was administered first aid at the job site before a coworker transported him to a local hospital. The fingertip was reattached and Employee #1 was released at approximately 6:30 p.m. that same day.

Employee's Fingers Lacerated Against Standing Forklift

Employee #1 was pulling stock and loading a truck at a metal supply company warehouse. He was carrying one end of an angle iron when he walked backward into a Toyota forklift that had its forks elevated 3 to 3 1/2 ft above the floor. Employee #1

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sustained lacerations to the first finger on his left hand. The forklift had been left unattended in the pathway of employees loading the truck.

One Employee Killed, One Injured By Anhydrous Ammonia

Employee #1 was working in a three-sided building approximately 100 ft from an anhydrous ammonia tank filling station. Two coworkers and Employee #2, who was driving a forklift, were off-loading a flatbed trailer when the forklift struck a section of the pipe for the filling station. The pipe blew out from its junction, releasing the contents of two 5,000 liquid gallon anhydrous ammonia tanks. Employee #1 was apparently inside the building when the ammonia plume was released and either succumbed to the ammonia gas immediately, or was blinded and could not escape from the building. He was killed. Employee #2, who worked for another company, on site, was hospitalized.

Employee Killed When Head Crushed By Bucket Control Arm

At approximately 12:05 p.m. on October 31, 1997, Employee #1 was working on a new Holland 1785 skid steer industrial truck, serial #738945. He had just removed the fork attachment and put on a bucket front-end loader attachment. While the machine was running, he stuck his head out the side of the vehicle, apparently to check a flat tire. As he leaned out the opening, which was supposed to have a screen guard over it, his foot apparently hit the controls for the bucket arm, which was operated by a hydraulic piston. The control arm came down and crushed Employee #1's head against the hydraulic piston. Employees who worked for the business next to the accident site found him. Employee #1 suffered blunt head trauma and was transported to the hospital, where he was pronounced dead on arrival. The equipment was operating properly and the hydraulic systems were not leaking. The screen guard had fallen out approximately three weeks before the accident and had not been replaced.

Employee Killed When Crushed By Forklift Mast

Employee #1 was monitoring scrap metal blown inside the bed of a tractor-trailer in shed #3. He was operating a Komatsu 25 forklift, and had apparently climbed into the mast assembly of the forklift when he slipped and his foot hit the lever that activated the mast. The mast crushed Employee #1's neck, killing him. He apparently climbed the forklift to monitor the scrap instead of climbing the ladder on the tractor-trailer, which he had been instructed to use.