



## Work Safety Alert Trapped by an Overturned Fork-lift Truck

1. **Date of Accident :** November 2016
2. **Place of Accident :** The loading bay of a warehouse
3. **Summary :**

A fork-lift truck overturned during operation and trapped the operator to death.

### 4. **Work Safety Alert for Proprietors/ Employers :**

To ensure the safety of workers/ employees engaged in goods handling work by means of fork-lift truck, the proprietors/ employers should provide and maintain a safe system of work which should include, but not limited to, the following:

- appointing a competent person to conduct task-specific risk assessments in identifying all potential hazards associated with the operation of fork-lift truck, taking into account the working environment, travelling routes and the limitations of the fork-lift truck as specified by the manufacturer's instructions;
- formulating safe work methods and procedures for the goods handling work by means of fork-lift truck with due regard to the results of risk assessments;
- as far as possible, providing suitable barriers at the edges of loading bays and clearly marking these areas, such as by black and yellow stripes, to improve their visibility;



- ensuring that the travelling routes of the fork-lift truck are properly planned to avoid sharp turns as far as possible;
- imposing speed limits to fork-lift trucks which should be clearly set and signposted on travelling routes and taking effective steps to prohibit overspeeding particularly when making turns;
- providing an operator restraint system or a suitable seat belt to the fork lift truck;
- where a seat belt is provided, ensuring that the operator is using the seat belt properly while operating the fork-lift truck;
- conducting examinations and inspections to the fork-lift truck regularly to ensure that it is in safe working order;
- developing and maintaining an effective preventive maintenance programme to ensure that all safety devices of the fork-lift truck are maintained in an efficient state and are functioning properly at all times;
- ensuring that the fork-lift truck is operated by a person who is competent and is holding a valid certificate relevant to the type of fork-lift truck;
- providing necessary safety information, instruction and training to all workers/ employees concerned and ensuring that they are familiar with the safe work procedures and safety measures; and
- establishing and implementing an effective monitoring and control system to ensure the above safety measures are strictly followed.

## 5. Reference :

- [Safe Systems of Work](#)<sup>1</sup>
- [Five Steps to Risk Assessment](#)<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Click to view document



- [Five Steps to Information, Instruction and Training](#)<sup>1</sup>
- [Guidance Notes for Safe Use of Fork-lift Trucks](#)<sup>1</sup>
- [Code of Practice on Mechanical Handling Safety in Container Yards](#)<sup>1</sup>
- [A Casebook of Occupational Fatalities in the Container Handling and Storage Sector](#)<sup>1</sup>

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**DISCLAIMER**

This Work Safety Alert (“the Alert”) is issued at the earliest possible opportunity after a serious accident with a view to drawing the attention of interested parties to the general safety precautionary measures necessary to protect people engaging in similar work activities. The material contained in the Alert constitutes general guidance only. It does not reduce, limit, or replace, any legal obligations upon any person to comply with any statutory duties under relevant legislation. Users such as Managers and Supervisors should make their own evaluation of the information contained in the Alert to determine if it can be applied to their own situations and practices. The Labour Department does NOT accept any responsibilities for any loss or damage resulting from the use of or failure to use of the information on the Alert.

Note: The material contained in the Alert is not exhaustive, and will be supplemented/adjusted where necessary if more relevant information comes to light.