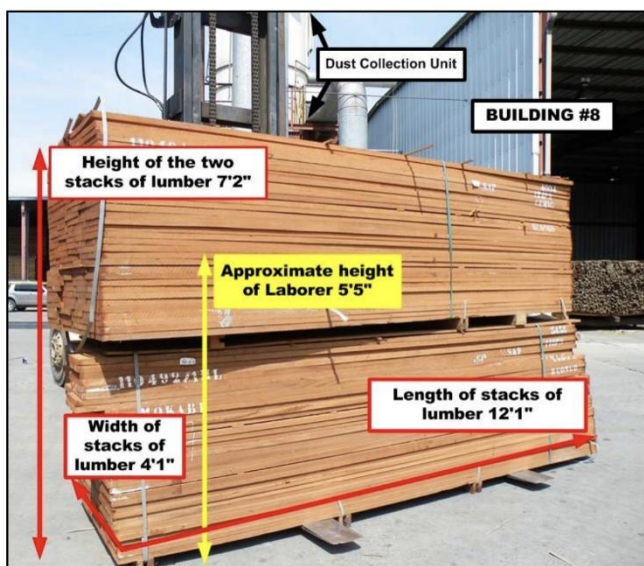


Review the details of these forklift incidents along with the recommendations and safety guidance to understand why these fatalities were preventable.

A worker died from crushing injuries when a forklift struck him.

A co-worker was operating a forklift loaded with lumber and accidentally struck the victim as he was walking on the job site. The forklift operator's field of vision was limited because he was transporting the lumber "load-forward" and the load obscured his view in such a way that he did not see the worker walking in his path, who was killed on impact.

The investigation later revealed that a large dust collection unit located 15 feet away was activated at the time of the incident and may have been loud enough to interfere with the worker's ability to hear the approaching forklift. NIOSH FACE Report 2012-01



- Do not move a forklift if there is not a clear view of travel.
- Slow down, stop, and sound the horn at intersections, corners, or whenever vision is obstructed. Use a spotter for blind spots.
- Always look in the direction of travel.
- Workers on foot must use caution, stay alert, and not walk in forklift travel areas if possible.

While giving a ride to a co-worker, a forklift tipped over killing the driver.

A 17-year-old worker driving a forklift offered a ride to a co-worker at the job site. The co-worker hopped on and was riding on the right side, holding onto the overhead guard. When the forklift operator made a sharp turn to the left the forklift tipped and overturned to the right. The co-worker jumped from the forklift and the operator was thrown or jumped from the operator's seat.

After the fall, the operator's head was pinned under the forklift's overhead guard. Emergency personnel arrived quickly, and he was transported to the emergency room where he was pronounced dead. NIOSH In-house FACE Report 2000-22

- It is a violation of Federal law for anyone under 18 years of age to operate a forklift.

- When driving a forklift, operators should utilize the restraint system, if there is one provided.
- In the event of a tip over in a sit-down type forklift, the operator should not attempt to jump out, but should stay seated, holding on firmly, while leaning in the opposite direction of the overturn.

A worker dies after being struck by an exploding forklift multi-piece rim.

As two workers were changing a flat tire on a forklift, they took a tube, inserted it into the tire, and partially inflated it to round it out. They took a multi-piece rim and assembled it within the tire. They fully inflated the tube and noticed it was pinched between the rim parts. As one of the workers turned around to get the tool needed to deflate the tire, the other worker took the air impact gun and started to disassemble the rim without deflating the tube. All workers nearby heard the explosion and paramedics arrived quickly. The victim died from his injuries within days. NIOSH California Case Report 10CA001

- Workers assigned to any work that could be dangerous should receive specific training that can be verified and is documented.
- Workers should not perform tasks if they do not have the technical skills to complete the job safely.

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