

No job is more important.



Safety Alert
N°2 1999

Fork Lift Crushes Worker



A forklift was being used to load a truck with pallets of general goods. During the loading, the truck driver noticed that some goods should not have been on the truck. He summonsed the forklift driver over to double check.

The forklift driver stopped the forklift, left the motor running and got off the vehicle.

Both men were standing beside the truck tray looking at the pallet when the forklift rolled into them and wedged them both between the forklift counterweight and the truck tray. The forklift operator managed to free himself and consequently moved the forklift freeing the truck driver.

The truck driver suffered injuries to his pelvis and legs.



Contributing Factors

An investigation into this accident revealed that:

- The forklift driver apparently failed to apply the handbrake and assumed that the forklift would not roll because the ground was reasonably flat.

Recommendations

- Never leave any vehicle unattended without applying a handbrake, and when appropriate, turn the motor off and place the vehicle in gear.
- Ensure the forks of forklifts are lowered to the ground.
- If possible, park a forklift in a designated area where it can be stopped from rolling by a rigid barrier.

If you would like further information contact Workplace Standards Tasmania on:
Telephone: **1300 366 322** (inside Tasmania) or (03) 6233 7657 (outside Tasmania),

Fax: (03) 6233 8338

Email: wstinfo@dier.tas.gov.au

Internet: www.wsa.tas.gov.au



.....
Robert Kent
Acting Chief Inspector
Workplace Standards Tasmania
November 23, 1999