

Worker Killed by Forklift Attachment



What happened?

A worker died when he was struck by a 40-foot steel I-beam being used as a spreader bar front end attachment on a forklift.

The worker, who had been on the job for about a week, was helping to load size 32 rebar, about an inch in diameter, onto a flat bed trailer. The worker was on the driver's side of the flatbed trailer while the forklift was on the passenger side loading two bundles of rebar onto the truck.

The I-beam slid off the forklift forks and struck the worker on the other side of the truck. A safety chain designed to keep the I-beam in place was on the I-beam but was not attached to the forklift.

What can you do to prevent a fatality from happening at your workplace?

- Use only forklift attachments approved by the forklift manufacturer.
- Make sure forklift operators know how to use attachments safely.
- Inspect attachments and forklifts prior to use.
- Make sure all personnel are out of the way of the load being moved.
- Position spotters and attendants beyond the reach of the load.
- Make sure all forklift operators, spotters and load attendants are trained to work around forklifts.

Need more information?

Go to www.Lni.wa.gov/Safety for information on workplace safety and health, rules and policies, sample programs and general assistance. Call 1-800-423-7233 to contact the Department of Labor & Industries (L&I), Division of Occupational Safety and Health (DOSH).

Interested in a free safety and health consultation at your workplace?

You may request assistance from DOSH by telephone, letter, or in person. You may request a complete review of your company's safety and health status or ask for help with a specific problem. A consultant will contact you to schedule a time and date for a free onsite consultation. Visit www.SafetyConsultants.Lni.wa.gov for phone numbers and e-mail addresses of consultants in your area.

How does an employee file a complaint?

Employees or employee representatives may file formal complaints with DOSH when they believe a safety or health hazard exists in their workplace. Complaint forms are available from your local L&I office in both English and Spanish, or on the Web at <http://www.Lni.wa.gov/Safety/Basics/Complaint>.

Contact us. We're here to help.

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This bulletin was developed by L&I's Division of Occupational Safety and Health (DOSH) to alert employers, labor groups, and employees of a tragic loss of life. The information in this bulletin is based on preliminary data and does NOT represent final determinations of the incident or conclusions regarding the cause of the fatality