

## Employee Killed Maintaining Hydraulics on Forklift



### What happened?

On March 14, 2008, a 35-year-old equipment mechanic was assigned to repair a leaking hydraulic hose on a powered industrial truck (forklift). The employee was killed when pressure was released on a hydraulic feed line, allowing the truck's hoisting mechanism to lower, trapping and suffocating the employee.

### What can you do to prevent this from happening at your workplace?

- Allow only authorized and trained employees to work on equipment.
- Carefully isolate all energy sources, following written procedures.
- Ensure block, chain or other energy-control steps are taken to prevent movement of elevated equipment parts.
- Release stored energy slowly.
- Verify equipment isolation before starting assigned work.
- Plan and practice emergency procedures.

*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*

## **Need more information?**

Go to <https://lni.wa.gov/safety-health/preventing-injuries-illnesses/get-started-with-safety-health/> for information on safety and health, rules and policies, sample programs, and general assistance.

## **Interested in a free safety consultation at your workplace?**

The Department of Labor & Industries provides consultations, training, and technical assistance at no cost to employers. Call today to schedule a free confidential consultation or go to <https://lni.wa.gov/safety-health/preventing-injuries-illnesses/request-consultation/consultant-near-you> for more information. You may also call 1-800-423-7233 or visit a local L&I office and ask for the Consultation Manager.

## **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 <https://lni.wa.gov/workers-rights/workplace-complaints/safety-complaints>.

**Contact us. We're here to help.**

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