

## 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 [Get Started with Safety & Health](#) for information on safety and health, rules and policies, sample programs, and general assistance.

## **Interested in a free safety and health 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 [Request Consultation](#) 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.

**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*