

24. Fall from Mobile Ladder

A **34-year-old** packaging and filling machine operator died when the mobile ladder she was standing on was struck by a forklift. The employee observed a jam on the overhead conveyor where different conveyor lines merged near where she was working. She obtained a mobile ladder platform that was stationed in the department and moved it to the location where she could access the conveyor and un-jam the product. She placed the ladder platform in the powered industrial truck aisle, ascended the ladder, and reached over to the jammed boxes and freed them. At the same time she was on the mobile ladder platform, another employee was transporting two pallet loads of product to the warehouse using a forklift. He was operating the forklift in reverse because the load on the forks was high enough to obstruct his forward view. Just as the victim was descending the mobile ladder, the forklift came down the aisle and ran into the ladder. The ladder platform was knocked over and struck a guard post, which threw the victim onto the floor. First responders and paramedics attended the victim and transported her to the hospital, but she received fatal injuries.

Citation(s) as Originally Issued

Citation 1

Item 1 T.C.A. 50-3-105(1)	The employer did not furnish employment and a place of employment which were free from recognized hazards that were causing or likely to cause death or serious physical harm to employees in that employees were exposed to forklift traffic while working from a portable ladder platform positioned in the powered industrial truck aisle.
Item 2 1910.219(c)(4)(i)	Projecting shaft ends were present and projected more than one-half of the diameter of the shaft and were not guarded by non-rotating caps or safety sleeves.

Citation 2

Item 1 1910.106(d)(3)(ii)(A)	The doors of metal cabinets were not provided with a three-point lock on the flammable liquid cabinet.
Item 2 1910.157(c)(1)	The employer did not mount, locate, or identify portable fire extinguishers so that they were readily accessible to employees without subjecting the employees to possible injury.
Item 3 1910.212(a)(1)	One or more methods of machine guarding was not provided to protect the operator and other employees in the machine area from hazards, such as those created by point of operation, ingoing nip points, rotating parts, flying chips and sparks.
Item 4 1910.242(b)	Compressed air was used for cleaning purposes and was not reduced to less than 30 psi.
Item 5 1910.303(g)(1)(ii)	Working space around electrical panel boxes was used for storage.
Item 6 1910.305(g)(2)(iii)	Flexible cords and cables were not connected to devices and fittings so that strain relief was provided to prevent pull from being directly transmitted to joints and terminal screws.

Item 7 1910.334(a)(2)(ii)

Where there was a defect or evidence of damage that might expose an employee to injury, the defective or damaged item was not removed from service—damage to outer insulation of flexible cord.



Mobile ladder involved in the incident



Forklift that struck the mobile ladder