

#8 Struck by load of Lumber - Inspection #1223664

A **59 year old male** employee was fatally injured when he was struck by a load of lumber that fell from a trailer. On the day of the incident, the victim, a truck driver, arrived at the lumber yard with a load of lumber and building supplies. A company verbal rule stated that the truck driver is to unstrap the load and then vacate the area while the forklift operator unloads the trailer. The victim parked his truck, unstrapped the load, and entered the office to wait for the trailer to be unloaded. The forklift operator walked around the truck and trailer to verify the condition of the load and to ensure the driver had vacated the area. The forklift operator began unloading the trailer. As the forklift operator was attempting to remove the second load of lumber, the remainder of the load on the trailer shifted causing four bundles of lumber to fall off the opposite side of the trailer. The forklift operator immediately heard a scream, looked under the trailer, and found the victim had been struck by the falling load. The victim apparently left the office at some point during the unloading of the trailer, walked out to the truck, and began winding up the trailer straps. There was no hazard control method to ensure that the truck drivers remain out of the area during the unloading of the trailers.

Citation(s) as Originally Issued

A complete inspection was conducted at the accident scene. Some of the items cited may not directly relate to the fatality.

Citation 1 Item 1

TCA 50-3-105(1)	<p>Each employer did not furnish to each of its employees conditions of employment and a place of employment free from recognized hazards that are causing or are likely to cause death or serious injury or harm to its employees.</p> <p>An employee was exposed to a struck by hazard as the employer had not established procedures to positively keep truck drivers out of the unloading area when their trucks were being unloaded. Among other methods, one feasible and acceptable abatement method to correct this hazard would be to develop a system where the truck driver relinquishes his truck to the forklift operator for unloading and then stays in a designated area away from the truck until unloading is completed.</p>
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Citation 2 Item 1

TDLWD Rule 0800-01-09-.06(2)	<p>The employer did not ensure that work areas in which non-containerized hazardous chemicals are generated or produced as a result of the process or operation taking place in such work area (e.g., welding fumes, carbon monoxide from powered industrial trucks exhaust, etc.) contain a sign or placard identifying the hazards chemical(s) and appropriate hazard warnings.</p> <p>In that no carbon monoxide warning signs were posted in storage sheds where propane powered forklifts were operated.</p>
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Citation 2 Item 2

29 CFR 1910.37(a)(3)	<p>Exit routes were not free and unobstructed. Materials or equipment were placed, either permanently or temporarily, within the exit route.</p> <p>In that a pallet was sitting in front of an emergency exit in building number 3.</p>
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Citation 2 Item 3

29 CFR 1910.1200(f)(6)(ii)	<p>Except as provided in 29 CFR 1910.1200(f)(7) and 29 CFR 1910.1200(f)(8), the employer did not ensure that each container of hazardous chemicals in the workplace was labeled, tagged or marked with the product identifier and words, pictures, symbols, or combination thereof, which provide at least general information regarding the hazards of the chemicals and which, in conjunction with the other information immediately available to employees under the hazard communication program, would provide employees with the specific information regarding the physical and health hazards of the hazardous chemical.</p> <p>In that diesel fuel was stored in a portable tank which had no labels or markings.</p>
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Photo 1 of 2 – The truck when it entered the yard for unloading.

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Photo 2 of 2 – The yellow arrow indicates where the bundle of lumber struck the victim.