

MANUFACTURING SAFETY ALERT

Ask Yourself
“Could it happen here?”

DESCRIPTION OF EVENT

Serious Injury to a New Worker

Note: this incident was not at a forest products manufacturing operation (WSBC Notice of Incident #: 2019181950014)

In a manufacturing facility a young and new worker was riding on the side of a forklift, assisting the forklift operator with loading and unloading activities. They were standing on the left-side running board, holding on to the handlebar on the inside of the cab. When the forklift was making a turn, the worker fell off and was run over by the forklift.

The worker sustained serious injuries.

Suggested Actions

From the investigation:

Cause: The employer permitted forklift assistants to ride on the forklift's running board. This is contrary to OHSR and the forklift instruction manual.

Contributing Factors:

- Inadequate Forklift training and supervision of the forklift operator. The operator was not required to demonstrate competency and was not familiar with the operating instructions.
- Manufacturer's Instructions were not followed, and a copy of the instructions were not in the forklift. The forklift was also modified by placing a handlebar on the inside of the door without the permission of the manufacturer.
- Inadequate young and new worker orientation. The worker did not receive the required young and new worker orientation as set out in the OHSR. The worker's hazards of the job changed when he became a forklift assistant and a new orientation or a review of the forklift hazards was not provided.



Most Important Take Away:

Provide effective initial and ongoing training and competency assessments for all employees. Ensure young and new workers fully understand their responsibilities and understand all hazards associated with the work they perform.

