

MANUFACTURING SAFETY ALERT

Ask Yourself
“Could it happen here?”

DESCRIPTION OF EVENT

Overhead Electrical Wire Incident:

A high stacker operator was moving equipment on a trailer from one location to another. This equipment is moved twice a year - once in the spring, to an area for operational use and once in the fall, back to the storage area. The area is not accessed at any other time by the high stacker operator.

The operator and spotter conducted a pre-job meeting focussing on the task at hand but did not discuss safety aspects. For the first trip, they chose a route with no overhead hazards. On the next trip, the high stacker did not follow the same route and drove under overhead electrical wires. The wires were not identified or noted at the pre-job meeting.

When the high stacker passed under the lines, the spotter in the lead vehicle noticed sparks when the high stacker's boom hit the lines. The spotter radioed the high stacker who stopped driving his equipment and a supervisor was called.

SUGGESTED ACTIONS

- Assess overhead hazards and determine if they can be avoided.
- Where overhead hazards cannot be avoided, ensure they are noted and well-marked.
- Complete field-level hazard assessments prior to work to identify all potential hazards associated with the task and environment.
- Ensure workers understand that if they deviate from the original plan, work should STOP and the hazard assessment must be revised as per the changes.



IMPORTANT TAKE AWAY

Complete field-level hazard assessments prior to work to identify all potential hazards associated with the task and environment.

Ensure workers understand that if they deviate from the original plan, work should STOP, and the hazard assessment must be revised as per the changes.

