

MANUFACTURING SAFETY ALERT

Ask Yourself
“Could it happen here?”

DESCRIPTION OF EVENT

Forklift Hand Crush Incident

An employee was seriously injured when the left fork of a forklift was repositioned too close to the centre of the carriage.

The incident occurred when a bailerman adjusted the left fork on the carriage of his forklift to accommodate a narrower bale. After collecting the bale, they drove towards the re-pulper and noticed the left fork was askew. They stopped and lowered the bale to the ground then backed up to remove it from the forks. The bailerman then raised the forks correct the misalignment but the machine was leaning towards the fork and it fell from the carriage and struck the employee's hand.

The incident resulted in a fractured hand and a large laceration on the right ring finger.

SUGGESTED ACTIONS

- Consider painting ‘a no fork zone’ with yellow paint around the gap in the centre of the carriage where the fork is removed from the mast.
- Inform employees on incident and forklift safety.
- Install stoppers on outside of forklift carriages.



IMPORTANT TAKE AWAY

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