

FORKLIFT STRUCK-BY INCIDENT

Worker Falls While Jumping Off Forklift in Motion, Suffers Fatal Injuries

A forklift operator offered a ride to another worker at the end of the workday. The rider climbed onto the step of the forklift, only intended for mounting and dismounting, and held onto the frame of the forklift while the forklift was in motion.

As they neared a gate, the rider jumped from the forklift while it was moving, with the intention of running ahead to open the gate for the forklift operator. However, as he jumped off, his foot caught in the forklift's back wheel guard, he fell to the ground, and the forklift rolled over him.

Emergency services arrived quickly but he was pronounced dead shortly after arriving at the trauma center.

Kentucky Case Report: 15KY067

- Do not allow passenger(s) to ride on a forklift unless the forklift is specifically designed to accommodate passengers.
- Forklift operators should use the proper footing and handhold when mounting and dismounting the forklift.
- Do not jump off the forklift.



OSHA Standard 1910.178(m)(3) *Unauthorized personnel shall not be permitted to ride on powered industrial trucks. A safe place to ride shall be provided where riding of trucks is authorized.*

Only trained and certified operators allowed!

- The first and most important rule to follow with forklifts – get trained!
- Many injuries to both the operator and their co-workers occur because the forklift operator was not trained on the specific model and type of forklift they used.
- Safe operating procedures depend on the specific type of lift. Not all forklifts work the same.

Discussion

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How could the fatality described above have been prevented?

What are some other rules that are important to follow when operating a forklift?