

BP SAFETY COMMUNICATION

Type of Incident:

Non-BP Fatality: Truck Driver crushed between fork truck load and truck trailer

Business Unit:

N/A

County:

USA

Location of Incident:

Third Party Offshore Construction Contractor's Yard

Date of Incident:

March 1, 2005; 00:45 hours

Brief Account of the Incident:

A single crane operator was called out late night to offload equipment from a truck. The crane operator offloaded the truck with a fork truck without performing and pre-job or JSA type review. The last piece of equipment removed from the truck trailer was a 5'X5'X7' tool box (6580 pounds). As the tool box cleared the truck trailer, the fork truck operator reversed and started lowering the load to the ground. Presumably, to remove the dunnage boards from the trailer, the contract truck driver walked between the load and the trailer. The fork truck operator halted lowering the load in an attempt to stop the driver. At this time the tool box unbalanced and fell forward off of the forks, pinching the truck driver between the tool box and the truck trailer.

Note: The construction contractor's tool box was being returned to his equipment yard after their work was completed on a BP offshore facility.

Outcome:

Fatality

What Went Wrong?

- The truck driver placed himself in between the load and trailer in the direct 'line of fire'.
- The fork truck handling the load had under sized tines for the load.
- The load exceeded the maximum lift capacity rating of the fork truck.
- The fork truck operator did not level the load as he lowered the fork truck boom.
- The fork lift truck operator was not certified for fork truck operation.
- The fork truck operator did not follow the Contractor's Safe Work Practices and Policies to not lift tool boxes with a forklift (i.e. use crane).



Forks do not fully extend past the load.

Figure 1 – Incident reenactment.
During the reenactment the tool box began to slide off the forks as the load was lowered.

Key Learnings:

- Never get in the 'line of fire' or pinch point area.
- Lifting equipment needs to be properly sized and rated for the load throughout the range of lift.
- Operations need adequate staffing levels, equipment and job planning.
- Best practice is to maintain a safe zone around truck offloads barring personnel entry.
- Equipment must be operated by properly qualified personnel.
- Pre-Job meeting and JSAs should be performed prior to making lifts.