



# H S E

HEALTH SAFETY ENVIRONMENTAL



Alert #: SA 17-22

Date: June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2022

## *Forklift Incident*

### **Incident Description:**

On the morning of June 2nd, 2022 at approximately 11:30 AM, a large wooden wire spool with an approximate radii of 4.5 feet, radius of 6 feet and an unloaded weight 450 lbs. was requested to be moved by electricians on site.

A Class VII (Variable Reach Type) powered industrial truck was utilized to move the wooden spool. GIS Employee A was the operator of the powered industrial truck, while GIS Employee B acted as a spotter for the operator.

Upon attempting to make the lift, the operator became aware that the large spool piece created a blind spot directly in front of his cab. The operator attempted to utilize a spotter as a guide in order to traverse down the access road with his view obstructed and load being maintained forward of the powered industrial truck's path.

While traversing down the access road, a GIS pick-up truck pulled behind the powered industrial truck and was attempting to move in the same direction as the powered industrial truck. The operator pulled over and allowed the pick-up truck to pass.

After the pick-up truck had passed, the operator continued to traverse down the access road. Unaware that the pick-up had come to stop due to an aerial lift blocking road and with no signals given by the spotter in time, the operator struck the pick-up truck from behind.

The forks caused moderate damage to tailgate of the pick-up truck. There were no injuries reported and the supervisor was immediately contacted. All crews were then shut-down and a mandatory safety stand-down was held.

### **Factors leading to the Incident:**

- Given the size of load being lifted, view from the cab of the powered industrial truck was vastly obstructed.
- While a spotter was utilized, the spotter failed to correctly identify a notable hazard and stop the operator.

### **Root Cause:**

The operator failed to adhere to OSHA Standard 1910.178(n)(6):

The driver shall be required to look in the direction of, and keep a clear view of the path of travel.

### **Recommended Actions to Prevent Future Occurrences:**

All powered industrial truck operators shall adhere to OSHA Standard 1910.178(n)(4):

The driver shall be required to slow down and sound the horn at cross aisles and other locations where vision is obstructed. If the load being carried obstructs forward view, the driver shall be required to travel with the load trailing.

***Report all incidents immediately to the GIS Hotline 1-855-543-5163.***

**SAFETY ALERT**