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HEALTH SAFETY ENVIRONMENTAL

SAFETY ALERT

Alert #: SA 22-25 Date: June 9, 2025

Manual Handling of Equipment Causes Pinch Point

During night shift operations, a recordable injury occurred while staging equipment offshore in preparation for hot work. The night crew attempted to move a welding machine rack using a pallet jack. Due to incompatibility between the pallet jack forks and the rack's fork sockets, workers placed 2x4s on the jack in an attempt to stabilize the load. To insert the 2x4s, the crew tilted the machine rack. During this process, the rack slipped on the smooth pallet jack surface and shifted unexpectedly, pinching a worker's finger and resulting in a recordable injury.

Findings:

- Improper alignment between pallet jack and equipment.
- Use of makeshift materials (2x4s) to stabilize a heavy load.
- Manual handling of heavy equipment without proper lifting tools.
- Lack of planning for safe equipment movement.

Key Reminders and Preventative Measures:

- Eliminate hazards where possible. Use equipment designed for the task; never improvise with unsafe solutions.
- Avoid manual handling. Utilize mechanical aids like cranes whenever available.
- Hands should never be used to stabilize heavy or bulky items. This presents a serious pinch and crush hazard.
- All tasks must be planned with equal attention to safety—whether high-priority or routine.
- Be mindful of surface conditions. Wheels on pallet jacks or carts can bind on uneven decks or surfaces, creating tip-over risks.

Recommended Safe Practice:

- Always assess the equipment to be moved and select the safest and most appropriate handling method.
- For heavy, awkward, or unbalanced loads, a crane is the preferred and safest method of movement.
- If manual assistance is necessary, ensure hands are kept clear of potential pinch points, and use taglines or tools to guide the load.

Proper use of the GIS LIFE Processes helps to create a Fail-Safe Work Environment.

855-543-5163
incident@gisy.com
Incident Hotline