



H S E

HEALTH SAFETY ENVIRONMENTAL



Alert #: SA 41-22

Date: December 14, 2022

Fatality during unloading of scaffold material

The following is an industry alert shared with our organization.

Description

- During the unloading of scaffold material from a truck, the fork of the forklift pushed the two upper, outermost bundles of scaffold, so they fell off the truck.
- The falling load hit the truck driver (Injured Person-IP) who was at ground level, at the opposite side of the truck from the forklift.
- The IP was partially left under the scaffold bundles that fell from the truck.
- Local emergency preparedness service arrived quickly and started life-saving first aid. All emergency services quickly arrived at the scene of the incident (Police, Fire & Ambulance).
- IP was flown to hospital and died the following day

Causes

- The fork of the forklift pushed the two upper, outermost bundles of scaffold off the truck.
- Truck driver (IP) was in the “line of fire”.
- The combination of a small vertical distance between the bundles of scaffold (dunnage), uneven ground at the unloading area and the fact that the load bed of the truck tilted towards the forklift, made the fork of the forklift hit and push the scaffold bundles off the truck.
- Lack of communication between the personnel involved.

Key Learning Elements

- Ensure Tool Box Talk (TBT) and risk assessment of the operation before startup, with the personnel involved.
- Establish safe loading and unloading zones
- Ensure that involved personnel are in a safe zone during unloading/loading.
- Ensure communication, including eye contact, between involved personnel during operation.
- Ensure dunnage is high enough so the fork of the forklift has sufficient space, also on uneven ground. Dunnage of a minimum of 98 x 98 mm (4”) is recommended



If you should have any questions, please contact the Corporate HSE department.

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

SAFETY ALERT