



SAFETY ALERT # 16



November 1st, 2006

In the interest of keeping everyone safe CAMSAFETY will be sharing injury information with preliminary root cause analysis. This information is intended to make you think not assess blame. If you have an incident that you would like to share send us the information and we will pass it along.

Rough Terrain Forklift Fatalities



Fall 2006 MIOSHA News:

“Employers urged to step-up efforts to ensure safe powered industrial truck use.”

In 2006 Michigan has experienced five worker fatalities due to Powered Industrial Trucks (PID's), these include fork lifts, pallet trucks, hi-lo's and our construction favorite, the Rough Terrain Forklift. The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) estimates that there are nearly 100 such fatalities annually. The construction industry is not immune to this type of accident.

The 2006 fatalities were a....:

35 year old worker pinned under overturned truck (fork-lift): The truck overturned pinning the employee under the upper frame. There were no witnesses but it appeared that a fast turn was the cause.

59 year old millwright struck by a falling piece of equipment: A 816 pound part fell from the forks.

46 year old utility operator found with forklift on top of him: The properly trained and experienced driver simply drove off of the loading docks.



23 year old welder/yard helper pinned between forklift and a vehicle: the employee was pinned while trying to stop the truck from hitting a vehicle, this case is still under investigation.

33 year old company owner run over by forklift: The victim was run over while charging the battery, this case is also still under investigation.

Applicable MIOSHA Standards

- Part 13 – Mobile Equipment
- Part 12 – Scaffoles and Scaffold Platforms
- Part 1 – General Rules

Prevention

Prevention measures a numerous but a few things are clear, training, planning and equipment maintenance/inspections are the cornerstones to safe use of all mobile equipment including rough terrain forklifts.

For more information on this topic see that Fall 2006 edition of the MIOSHA news which covers all aspects of powered industrial trucks including rough terrain forklifts. The MIOSHA News can be obtained on-line at: www.michigan.gov/documents/cis/wsh_mioshanews_fall06_175654_7.pdf or you can subscribe to this free publication by calling 517-322-1809.