

EASE



Abstract of an Accident

93-8

ACCIDENT TYPE: Forklift mishap
INJURY: Broken pelvis (eight places) ruptured bladder, and bruised kidney
TYPE OF WORK: Erecting masonry walls
EQUIPMENT: LUL 644 Highlander-II Forklift

DESCRIPTION OF THE ACCIDENT:

A forklift, carrying an empty pallet in the raised position, was returning from dumping trash when a gust of wind-blown sand temporarily blinded the operator. The empty pallet struck the victim on the shoulder knocking him to the ground and the forklift ran over him.

DIRECT CAUSE:

Forklift driver was wearing improper eye protection (Oakley tinted sunglasses) which allowed sand to temporarily blind her. The Highlander-II forklift has a blind spot and should be limited to the specific work location not exposed to personnel traffic.

CONTRIBUTING CAUSE:

1. The safety plan fails to limit the use of the "side operated" forklift to a specific work site, preventing exposure to vehicle and personnel traffic.
2. Contractor's approved safety plan was not implemented concerning PPE.
3. The forklift was being operated with the forks in a raised position.
4. Lack of adequate operator training.
5. Safety equipment inspection records failed to indicate the seat belt was missing.

LESSONS LEARNED:

1. The contractor's approved safety plan is essential and shall be implemented in accident prevention.
2. Equipment needed for specific tasks should be assigned and used.
3. Minimize the operation of equipment in areas where personnel traffic is heavy.
4. Safety procedures and established safety practices are essential and should be followed without deviation.

Your **SAFETY** contact is...