

MANUFACTURING SAFETY ALERT

Ask Yourself
“Could it happen here?”

DESCRIPTION OF EVENT

Forklift Pedestrian Incident

An employee was heading out to their car on a designated walkway at the end of their shift. They noticed a large, loaded forklift parked near the walkway. The forklift operator was exiting the cab. The employee tried to get the attention of the operator but they did not acknowledge them as they were exiting. Since the operator was not in the machine, the employee thought it was safe to walk behind the forklift.

As the employee began walking, they heard the forklift's backup alarm. They did not realize the operator had gone back into the cab and started to reverse. The employee was able to get out of the way but the forklift driver still did not see the employee and continued to drive away from the area.

SUGGESTED ACTIONS

- Update general job safety analysis (JSA):
Treat an unattended forklift as though it were still operating and don't assume it's safe to walk near mobile equipment unless you make clear contact with the operator.
- Establish eye contact with the operator and get acknowledgment before crossing their path or approaching the forklift.
- Update Forklift JSA - Look carefully over both shoulders before backing up a forklift.
- Ensure the backup alarms on all mobile equipment are in good working condition.
- Use Mobile/ Pedestrian interface standards as an audit tool to assess hazards and risks on your sites.



IMPORTANT TAKE AWAY

Always obtain eye contact and acknowledgment before you approach, walk in front of or behind a forklift.

