

HAZARD ALERT

Industry: Wholesale

Age: 42 years

Experience: 2 weeks

Area: Lower Mainland

Worker crushed by forklift

A worker was using a forklift to place a crate of stone tile on top of two crates already in storage. The forklift was positioned with the load raised almost 5 feet in front of the two crates, which were stacked 5 feet high.

The worker dismounted and walked in the front of the forklift, possibly to prepare the top of the crates in storage to accept the new crate. The forklift moved forward, crushing the worker between the crates in storage and the crate on the forks of the machine. The worker later died from his injuries.

The accident investigation found that the forklift's transmission must have been in drive and its parking brake off.

Safe work practices:

- Always engage the parking brake when leaving the forklift unattended.
- Prepare the area where the load is to be placed before the forklift is positioned with the load raised.
- Lower the forks to the floor when parking and/or working in front of forklifts.
- Ensure that workers who operate forklifts receive adequate training and supervision.
- Provide workers with written safe work procedures for forklift operation.

