

6. Struck by large roll of paper

A **22-year-old** Hispanic worker in a warehouse died when a large roll of paper fell on him. A forklift driver attached a clamp to his forklift and unloaded large rolls of paper from a railroad box car. The victim helped him from inside the warehouse by recording the numbers on the rolls of paper for tracking purposes. Each roll of paper was about 48 inches in diameter and weighed approximately 1500 pounds. Rolls were in stacks of three in the box car. The rolls would be shipped from the warehouse to a customer when ordered. When the forklift driver entered the box car to get the last three rolls, the victim was standing on the dock inside the warehouse; he was not supposed to enter the box car because it was dark and the forklift driver would have difficulty seeing him. As the driver drove into the box car, he noticed that the top roll had shifted and looked as if it would fall. He attempted to clamp the roll, but it fell before he could. When it fell, the driver looked down and saw the victim under the roll. His cell phone light was on and he was apparently using it to read the numbers off the rolls of paper. He was transported to a local hospital, but was pronounced dead.

Citations as Originally Issued

Citation 1

Item 1 T.C.A. 50-3-105(1)	The employer did not furnish employment and a place of employment which were free from recognized hazards that were causing or likely to cause death or serious physical harm to employees in that the employer did not establish, implement and adequately communicate policies and procedures to assure that employees maintain a safe distance from forklifts while moving particularly during unloading of dimly lit box cars.
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Citation 2

Item 1 TDL Rule 0800-1-3-.05(1)(a)	An oral report of an employment accident resulting in a fatality or the inpatient hospitalization of three or more employees was not made within eight (8) hours after the occurrence to the nearest Area Office of the Division of Occupational Safety and Health or to the TOSHA toll-free central telephone number (1-800-249-8510).
Item 2 1910.178(l)(4)(iii)	The employer did not certify that an evaluation of each powered truck (PIT) operator's performance has been conducted at least every three years.

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Rolls of paper