

#6: Struck By – Inspection #317680056

A **51 year old male** employee was struck by the mast of a forklift. An employee was repairing a hydraulic fitting on the main mast cylinder of a Toyota forklift. The operator of the lift elevated the forks up and set them on top of a CONEX shipping container which was 101” above the ground. The maintenance forklift superintendent proceeded to remove the fitting from the hydraulic cylinder while being positioned below the raised mast and dual loader attachment. After diagnosing the problem as being a leaking O-ring, the superintendent went into the shop area and obtained the correct O-ring and returned to the lift to install it and the fitting back on the cylinder. He again was positioned under the elevated mast and the dual loader attachment. As he started to replace the fitting the mast and dual loader attachment moved from the top of the shipping container they had been resting on and struck the superintendent in the back, pinning him between the pallet of material he was kneeling on and the mast and attachment.

Citation(s) as Originally Issued

A complete inspection was conducted at the accident scene. Some of the items cited may not directly relate to the fatality.

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 employees were exposed to job made below-the-hook lifting devices that were not rated and tested for the loads imposed. In that the below-the-hook lifting device used to lift the bottle in feed guide was a) Not tested to ensure that it could be used safely to lift the guide; b)The device was not marked as to the load capacity it could safely lift, and the; c)The device was not subject to frequent and periodic inspections.
Item 2a 1910.147(c)(4)(i)	Procedures were not developed, documented, and utilized for the control of potentially hazardous energy when employees were engaged in activities covered by this section: In that the employer did not develop and follow a specific procedure for the control of stored energy while the employees were required to perform service and/or maintenance on the powered industrial trucks.

#6: Struck By – Inspection #317680056

Item 2b 1910.178(m)(2)	Persons were allowed to stand or pass under the elevated portion of the truck, whether loaded or empty: In that the maintenance employee was allowed to pass under and work from a position that was under an elevated portion of the lift while repairing the hydraulic system of the lift.
Item 2c 1910.178(m)(5)(iii)	When the operator of an industrial truck was dismounted and within 25 feet of the truck still in view, the load engaging means was not fully lowered, controls neutralized, and the brakes set to prevent movement: In that the operator of the Toyota powered industrial truck was off the truck and in view of it and did not lower the forks to the ground, but instead has them resting on the top of a shipping container while the hydraulic system was being worked on.

Citation 2

Item 1 1910.22(d)(1)	In every building or other structure, or part thereof, used for mercantile, business, industrial, or storage purposes, the loads approved by the building official were not marked on plates of approved design and supplied and securely affixed by the owner of the building in a conspicuous place in each space to which they relate: In that the upper mezzanine area above the production maintenance shop was being used for storage of parts and was not marked as to the load rating the floor would support.
Item 2 1910.26(c)(2)(iv)	Ladders were not maintained in good usable condition at all times: In that the portable metal ladders used on the dryer platform were modified from the manufacturer's design by the employer drilling holes in the side rails and installing bolts, so as to prevent other employees from removing the ladders from the area.
Item 3 1910.37(a)(3)	Materials or equipment were placed, either permanently or temporarily, within the exit route: In that the exit door located in the compressor room was blocked by the equipment in the room, due to the equipment being mounted directly in front of the door.
Item 4 1910.37(b)(7)	Each exit sign did not have the word "EXIT" in plainly legible letters not less than 6 inches high, with the principal strokes of the letters in the word "EXIT" not less than 3/4 inch wide: In that the exit door located in the production maintenance shop was not marked with an adequate sign that read "EXIT", but instead was marked with a sign printed on paper that had 2-inch letters.

#6: Struck By – Inspection #317680056

Item 5 1910.151(b)	Adequate first-aid supplies were not readily available: In that the employer was not maintaining adequate first-aid supplies in the first-aid kits located throughout the facility, as was evident by the kits only containing gauze and antiseptic wipes.
Item 6 1910.157(c)(1)	The employer did not mount, locate, or identify portable fire extinguishers so that they were readily accessible to employees without subjecting the employees to possible injury: In that the portable fire extinguisher located in the compressor room was not identified with a sign indicating the location of the extinguisher.
Item 7 1910.219(c)(4)(i)	Projecting shaft ends projected more than ½ of the diameter of the shaft and were not guarded by non-rotating caps or safety sleeves: In that the projecting shaft end on the elevated conveyor was not guarded to prevent employees from coming into contact with it as they climbed the fixed ladder adjacent to the conveyor.
Item 8 1910.242(b)	Compressed air was used for cleaning purposes and was not reduced to less than 30 psi: In that the compressed air being used for cleaning in the following areas was not reduced to 30 psi or provided with tips on the air nozzles that would reduce the psi to 30 or less in the event that the nozzles were dead-ended on an employee.
Item 9 1910.303(f)(2)	Each service, feeder, and branch circuit, at its disconnecting means or overcurrent device, was not legibly marked to indicate its purpose, unless located and arranged so the purpose is evident: In that the electrical panel located outside of the maintenance shop had six circuits inside the panel box that were not labeled as to what they controlled.
Item 10 1910.303(g)(1)(i)(A)	The depth of the working space in the direction of access to live parts was less than 3 feet: In that the following electrical panel boxes did not have the area in front of them maintained free from equipment or stored materials: a) Electrical panel located outside of the maintenance shop, and b) Panel 208 in the husky room.
Item 11 1910.305(g)(1)(iv)(A)	Flexible cords and cables were used as a substitute for the fixed wiring of a structure: In that a flexible extension cord was used to supply power from one outlet location to another outlet location in the maintenance shop.

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Photo 1 of 1: The employee was struck in the back by the mast of a forklift