

## **27 Struck by forklift – Inspection #1185791**

A **58 year old male** employee was fatally injured when he was struck by a 14,000 pound forklift. On the day of the incident the victim, a boiler tech, was standing in the roadway near the railroad tracks directing a semi-truck driver picking up a load of sawdust at the manufacturing site. At the same time, a Taylor brand #21, model #TE-360L forklift was carrying two bundles of lumber from the stacker to the yard area located near the railroad tracks. The operator had to drive with the load trailing because the two bundles obstructed his view traveling forward. He stated that he traveled backwards steering with his left hand and looked over his right shoulder. The forklift operator turned at the intersection to go over the railroad tracks and towards the yard area when he felt a bump. During the investigation it was determined that the back-up beeper and horn were inoperable and both side mirrors were missing on the Taylor forklift. Daily forklift inspections occur but the inspection for the Taylor forklift involved in this incident could not be located.

### **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**

TCA 50-3-105(1)	The employer did not furnish to each of his employees conditions of employment and a place of employment free from recognized hazards that are causing or likely to cause death or serious physical harm to his employees. In that there were no measures in place to prevent exposing employees to vehicular traffic created at the intersection outside the boiler area as employees traveled to and from the parking lot to their designated work areas at the facility. Among other methods, feasible and acceptable means of abatement would be to: a) develop a designated walkway/crossover for employees to travel from the employee parking lot area to the time clock, out of the line of moving vehicles and powered industrial trucks, and enforce the use of this walkway, b) install a warning system that indicated to oncoming vehicular traffic (i.e. powered industrial trucks) when employees were passing through the intersection
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#### **Citation 1 Item 2a**

29 CFR 1910.178(1)(4)(iii)	An evaluation of each powered industrial truck operator's performance had not been conducted at least once every 3 years. In that an evaluation of each employee designated to operate a forklift at the facility was not conducted at least once every three years.
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### **Citation 1 Item 2b**

29 CFR 1910.178(l)(6)	The employer did not certify that each operator had been trained and evaluated as required by paragraph (l). The certification did not include the name of the operator, the date of training, the date of the evaluation, and the identity of the person(s) performing the training and evaluation. In that certifications of powered industrial truck operator evaluations had not been maintained by the employer.
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### **Citation 1 Item 3**

29 CFR 1910.178(n)(6)	The forklift driver did not look in the direction of, and keep a clear view of the path of travel. In that on October 21 <sup>st</sup> , 2016 the forklift operator was transporting two bundles of lumber with the Taylor brand forklift, Model #TE-360L, traveling with the load trailing. The employee was not looking in the direction of travel resulting in an employee that was standing in the area being fatally injured when he was run over by the forklift.
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### **Citation 1 Item 4**

29 CFR 1910.178(p)1)	Powered industrial truck(s) with defect(s) or in any way unsafe had not been withdrawn from service until restored to safe operating conditions(s). IN that Taylor forklift, Model #TE-360L, continue to be operated with an inoperable horn, inoperable back-up beeper and both side mirrors removed.
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### **Citation 2 Item 1**

29 CFR 1910.147(c)(4)(ii)	The energy control procedures did not clearly and specifically outline the scope, purpose, authorization, rules, and techniques to be utilized for the control of hazardous energy, including, but not limited to items (a) through (d) of this section. In that there were no machine specific procedures documented for use when servicing/repairing powered industrial trucks.
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Photo 1 of 1 – Forklift involved in the incident did not have an operable horn or an operable backup beeper. Manufacture stated the forklift was also equipped with two side mounted cab mirrors. These mirrors were not on the forklift at the time of the accident.