

A **30 year old male** forklift operator was fatally injured when he and the **PIT** he was operating slid out of an open dock door **overturning** onto the parking lot level approximately 48 ¼ inches below pinning the victim between the lift and the pavement. This facility is a warehouse and distribution center.

It was discovered through an interview with the yard hostler operator that he received instructions to move an empty semi-trailer from Dock Door #19 before the incident occurred. He said it was raining when he moved the semi-trailer from Dock Door #19 and the dock door remained open which allowed rain to enter the building causing the floor in the vicinity of the open dock door to get wet. Another interview with a different PIT operator revealed that he witnessed the victim hit the brakes and then saw the PIT he was operating slide from inside the building to the outside of the building to the pavement below.

An examination of the Dock Door #19 where the incident occurred, revealed it was not equipped with any type of fall protection device or system to prevent exposing employees to a fall hazard to the parking lot level approximately 48 ¼ inches below when the dock door is raised and there is no trailer in place.

An examination of the Forklift and Pallet Jack Pre-Trip Checklists revealed no discrepancies noted by the victim regarding the PIT he was operating. The PIT was equipped with a seat belt from the manufacturer and was visible on the lift. The lift was equipped with smooth tires and was unloaded when it, with the victim, slid out of the open dock door onto the parking lot level below.

Based on the fact that the victim & forklift slid out of the dock door; it is believed that the victim was not operating the forklift a safe distance from the open dock door.

**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**

**Type of Violation:**

**Serious**

**\$4500**

**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 a powered industrial truck (PIT) operator did not utilize a seat belt while operating the Crown FC 4500 Series PIT, #139642.

**Citation 1 Item 2      Type of Violation:                      Serious                      \$4500**

**29 CFR 1910.22(a)(2):** The floor of each workroom was not maintained in a clean and, to the extent feasible, in a dry condition.

In that on 03/30/2022 the dock floor in the vicinity of open Dock Door #19 was wet and the employee was operating a powered industrial truck (PIT) on the wet floor.

**Citation 1 Item 3      Type of Violation:                      Serious                      \$4500**

**29 CFR 1910.28(b)(1)(i):** Except as provided elsewhere in this section 29 CFR 1910.28, the employer did not ensure that each employee on a walking-working surface with an unprotected side or edge that is 4 feet (1.2 m) or more above a lower level is protected from falling by one or more of the systems described in 29 CFR 1910.28(b)(1)(i):

In that an employee was exposed to a fall hazard while operating a Crown powered industrial truck (PIT) adjacent to the unguarded open Dock Door #19, approximately 48 ¼ inches above the parking lot level.

**Citation 1 Item 4      Type of Violation:                      Serious                      \$4500**

**29 CFR 1910.178(m)(6):** The employer did not ensure that safe distance was maintained from the edge of ramps or platforms while on any elevated dock, or platform or freight car.

In the employee was exposed to unintentionally driving out the open dock door #19 due to not operating the powered industrial truck at a safe distance from the open door.

**Citation 2 Item 1      Type of Violation:      Other-than-Serious                      \$700**

**TDLWD Rule 0800-01-03-.03(27)(b)1:** The log of all recordable work-related injuries and illnesses was not completed in the detail as required by the rule.

In that column F of the OSHA300 logs for 2019, 2020, 2021 & 2022 were not completed in the required detail for multiple recorded injuries & illnesses. Information such as the object/substance that directly injured the employee or made the person ill and the injury sustained was not included in column F.

Overtured Vehicle—Insp # 1586861 Coca-Cola Consolidated, Inc



Overtuned Vehicle—Insp # 1586861 Coca-Cola Consolidated, Inc

