

FY 22 SE TX Warehousing Related Incidents*

Warehousing' would primarily identified as NAICS 4931. However, while looking through incident narratives it can be seen that many warehouse-related incidents occur in the warehouses that are part of related industries such as wholesale trade or even manufacturing and construction companies who have a warehouse where they ship and received products and materials. The hazards are similar wherever warehousing activities occur. The following are some examples of incidents that occurred in what appeared to be warehouse related activities regardless of the NAICS code. There were about ten fatalities (out of 55 total) and 45 serious incidents (out of a total of 381) in SE TX in FY 22.



Struck By was the most common hazard related to incidents in warehouse related operations with about 25 occurrences.

Being struck by falling loads and P.I.T.s were the most common events.

Some safety tips to emphasize include controlling potential fall objects and avoiding areas materials may fall, inspecting P.I.T.s prior to putting in service, keeping limbs inside the P.I.T. structure, ensuring P.I.T. operators and other workers in the area remain vigilant of their surroundings, and establish walkways and other areas to keep employees away from moving equipment and operations

Examples:

Struck by falling object or equipment

- Two maintenance employees were repairing a manual dock plate located at the dock door. One employee was checking the work and had his head beneath the ramp, testing the operation. For some reason, one bolt sheared off and the ramp closed and fell over him trapping his head.
- Employee was walking east to west inside a warehouse along the dock side of the warehouse. A forklift with two bundles of plywood on the forks was traveling from the south to the north. They yelled as the forklift approached and the forklift operator hit the brakes. When the brakes were applied, the plywood slid off the forks and struck them in the head and upper body.
- Employee was moving tubing and chrome bar with a crane in a warehouse when the materials fell forward striking him causing fractures in both legs.
- Employee was removing the straps from the load on a flatbed. Parts of the load had shifted during transport and when they removed the last two straps, the two top bundles of aluminum extrusion (30' long) fell from the side of the load resulting in fractures to the right leg and vertebrae fissures.
- Employee was using a forklift to unload truck and drove a forklift off of the dock suffering a crushed foot.
- Employee was walking by the side of truck trailer. A wheel loader operator accidentally pushed a bale of cardboard over the side of the truck trailer while offloading. The bale of cardboard weighing approximately 900 pounds struck him resulting in back injuries.
- An employee was operating a reach truck and about to extract a pallet from an overhead rack. Before extracting the pallet, the forks on the forklift fell/collapsed back onto the employee. It was determined that the lift was missing pins. The lift was a rental that the company had just received.

Struck by moving object or equipment

- Employee on a stand-up forklift oversteered while turning into an aisle and attempted to prevent the stand-up forklift from contacting a storage rack by placing out her left arm, which struck the storage rack, fracturing it.

Struck by powered vehicle

- Employee and a coworker were looking at documents to determine which containers needed to be moved while a forklift operator was staging empty containers to fill with product. The forklift operator thought they were on a different side of the yard. He went to back up and struck them. One employee was crushed and the other sustained fractures and lacerations.
- Employee was walking in the warehouse and walked behind a forklift backing up. He was struck by the rear counterbalance of the forklift, fell to the ground, and hit his head when he fell suffering a fractured right tibia.



Falls were the second most common incident with about 14 occurrences

Fall on same level was the most frequent type of fall

Some safety tips to emphasize include establishing clear communication and procedures between truck drivers and workers loading and unloading the truck, marking and/or guarding potential fall hazards, and establishing good house keeping practices.

Examples:

- Warehouse employee was riding on the back of a forklift. The forklift operator went to back up and they jumped off of the back of the forklift. His pant leg got caught on the hook that was on the back of the forklift and their right foot was ran over by the forklift.

Struck by rolling object or equipment

- Employee was staging stainless steel totes on a loading dock ramp in the warehouse/dock area. They staged the first tote and backing up noticed a cone had become wedged under the tote. They stopped the forklift, put it in neutral, set the parking brake and turned the forklift off. They got off the forklift and walked in front to get the cone when the forklift rolled forward, pinning them between the forklift and tote causing a collapsed lung.

Fall lower level moving vehicle

- Employee was loading helium tanks into a tractor trailer when the driver suddenly began to drive away. He fell out of the trailer onto the ground at the loading dock fracturing their ankle/foot.
- Employee was loading up bales of banded cardboard into the back of a 53' trailer. He finished loading a bale, tapped his horn, and begin to back out of the trailer. The truck driver heard the forklift horn, and thinking the forklift operator was finished, pulled away from the loading dock. The forklift he was operating fell out of the back of a moving trailer and he suffered a fractured L2.

Fall lower level nonmoving vehicle

- Employee was checking a trailer during pre-trip for unloading equipment and fell out of back of the trailer fracturing the left ankle.

Fall lower level structure or equipment

- An employee was helping to stack baking pans at the plant's loading dock when he stepped backwards falling 3-4' off the loading dock injuring his head.
- Employee delivering packages and was running back to the truck and slipped and injured his knee.

Fall on same level

- At the construction warehouse, employees were unloading supersacks from a truck. While moving some supersacks that had shifted, an employee stepped on a nail, tripped and fell, landing on his hip causing a hip injury.
- Employee was sweeping and picking up trash in a concrete and masonry warehouse and tripped and fell over a board breaking his hip.
- Employee was walking in the warehouse and tripped over a pallet and broke his left femur.



Caught Between was the third most common incident with eleven occurrences

Caught between moving objects or equipment

- Warehouse employee was packaging product in 55 lb. bags and stepped up on a moving conveyor. This caused his leg to be pulled between two moving parts of the conveyor crushing his left leg.
- The forklift operator was about to drive away when the driver of a flatbed truck drove forward and the operator's right hand was caught between the rear cab and the front of the flatbed causing ring finger amputation and lacerations.

Caught between stationary and moving equipment or objects

- Employee was raising the lift gate on a box truck. He had paperwork nearby and while the liftgate was raising into place his paperwork fell. As a reaction, he

Caught between stationary and moving equipment or objects was the most frequent type of event and usually involved a P.I.T.

Some safety tips to emphasize include keeping limbs inside the confines of the P.I.T., slow down when making sharp turns, be aware of the potential for shifting loads, and keeping hands clear of potential pinch points

Examples:



Other Hazards was the least common event with four incidents.

The incidents involved back injuries and heat illness

Safety tips include using proper lifting techniques and mechanical lifting device instead of manual lifting when possible and including all employees in the heat illness prevention program. Though it hasn't been a frequent event, serious incidents related to hazardous substances in, or leaking in, a trailer have occurred over the years.

Examples:

grabbed the paperwork as the liftgate was closing and it caught his thumb between the plate and the truck amputating the tip of his left thumb.

- Employee was loading material on a truck with a crane. He started removing the plate hooks from the material and the material shifted. As the material shifted, his left ring finger was pinched between the material and the plate hook and the tip of the left ring finger was amputated.
- Employee is lift driver and was putting away and replenishing food storage on racks in the grocery distribution center. He lost control of the lift and attempted to stop it and his left ankle got jammed between the lift and a rack. He suffered a laceration to the left ankle and fracture to the heel.
- Employee was selecting cases from pick slot using a pallet jack. He lost control causing his right ankle to get caught between the wall and the pallet jack. He suffered a fractured right ankle and was hospitalized.
- Employee was pulling a double walkie-rider out of its parking spot and proceeded to make a sharp U-turn to make their way to their department. In order to turn, he had to turn the steering yoke/arm quite far, reducing the area which they could stand on the operator's platform. When they attempted to make that sharp turn, they lost their footing on the operator's platform and began to fall off of the machine. When he fell, they landed in front of their walkie-rider, which was still moving, as it collided with a separate, parked walkie-rider. His leg was impacted by both the machines' operator platforms resulting in fractures to their right tibia and fibula.

Body movement

- An employee injured their lower back while loading angle iron onto a truck and was later diagnosed with a slipped/herniated disc.
- Employee was unloading food from the truck to the freezer and suffered a back pain/sprain. He went home and the family took him to a hospital.

Exposure to heat – environmental

- Employee was delivering packages on his route and began to feel bad. He notified management and they called 911 to be dispatched to the employee's delivery location. He was transported him to the hospital and he was admitted for a heat-related illness.
- Employee was delivering packages and he started cramping and not feeling well. The employer told the employee to seek medical attention and he was hospitalized for a heat related illness.

Fire


- Employee was on a forklift unloading a pallet of brass casings from the back of a 53' trailer. The wheels of the forklift ran over gun powder that was on the floor of the trailer and the gunpowder exploded. Their clothes caught on fire and he received severe burns to his body and was taken to the hospital.

There are several ways the information in this flyer can be used:

- Review the incidents and look at your operations to see if there are adequate controls to prevent these types of incidents from occurring in your workplace.
- Review the incidents for potential areas for training employees on hazard awareness.
- Pick an incident and use it as a talking point during a safety meeting or tool box talk.
- Use an incident to highlight the potential severity of an injury or illness when an accident occurs and the importance of setting up and following safe work practices.
- Discuss applicable incidents with employees and ask them where they see the greatest hazards or potential for injury in their work, and how they can be prevented.

OSHA Information


Warehousing



Know the Law	Overview	Related Topics
Hazards and Solutions	The warehousing and storage industry includes establishments operating facilities for general merchandise, refrigerated goods, and other products. These establishments may also provide logistical services relating to goods distribution. Potential hazards in this rapidly growing, fast-paced industry include those associated with powered industrial trucks (forklifts, ergonomics, material handling, hazardous chemicals, slip/trip/falls, and robotics). The most common injuries are musculoskeletal disorders (mainly from overexertion in lifting and lowering) and being struck by powered industrial trucks and other materials handling equipment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ergonomics• Powered Industrial Trucks• COVID-19• Temporary Workers• Holiday Workplace Safety
Resources		
Employer Assistance		

OSHA Warehousing Webpage

<https://www.osha.gov/warehousing>



Powered Industrial Trucks - Forklifts



Standards	Overview	Highlights
Hazards and Solutions	What are powered industrial trucks? Powered industrial trucks, commonly called forklifts or lift trucks, are used in many industries, primarily to move materials. They can also be used to raise, lower, or remove large objects or a number of smaller objects on pallets or in boxes, crates, or other containers. Powered industrial trucks can either be ridden by the operator or controlled by a walking operator. Over-the-road haulage trucks and earth-moving equipment that has been modified to accept forks are not considered powered industrial trucks.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Protect Workers Operating and Working Near Forklifts: OSHA Alert (Publication 3873), (2019).• Safe Forklift Operation: OSHA, QuickCard™ (Publication 3949), (2018).• Sample Daily Checklists for Powered Industrial Trucks: Prepared by OSHA and the Industrial Trucking Association (ITA)/Alliance: OSHA notes that this checklist and related graphics were developed in cooperation with the ITA as part of the OSHA/ITA Alliance.• Sample Daily Checklists for Powered Industrial Trucks.
Additional Resources	What are the hazards associated with operating powered industrial trucks? There are many types of powered industrial trucks. Each type presents different operating hazards. For example, a sit-down, counterbalanced high-lift rider truck is more likely than a protected hand truck to be involved in a falling load accident because the sit-down rider truck can lift a load much higher than a hand truck. Workplace type and conditions are also factors in hazards commonly associated with powered industrial trucks. For example, retail establishments often face greater challenges than other workplaces in maintaining pedestrian safety. Beyond that, many workers can also be injured when: (1) lift trucks are inadvertently driven off loading docks; (2) lifts fall between docks and an unsecured trailer; (3) they are struck by a lift truck; or (4) they fall while on elevated pallets and ladders.	
Workers' Rights		

OSHA Powered Industrial Trucks Webpage

<https://www.osha.gov/powerd-industrial-trucks>



This information has been developed by an OSHA Compliance Assistance Specialist and is intended to assist employers, workers, and others improve workplace health and safety. While we attempt to thoroughly address specific topics [or hazards], it is not possible to include discussion of everything necessary to ensure a healthy and safe working environment in this presentation. This information is a tool for addressing workplace hazards, and is not an exhaustive statement of an employer's legal obligations, which are defined by statute, regulations, and standards. This document does not have the force and effect of law and is not meant to bind the public in any way. This document is intended only to provide clarity to the public regarding existing requirements under the law or agency policies. It does not create (or diminish) legal obligations under the Occupational Safety and Health Act. Finally, OSHA may modify rules and related interpretations in light of new technology, information, or circumstances; to keep apprised of such developments, or to review information on a wide range of occupational safety and health topics, you can visit OSHA's website at www.osha.gov. Incidents are based on the first report of injury and may not reflect the final determination if applicable. For questions contact Jim Shelton at the Houston North Area Office shelton.james@dol.gov.