

## **#18: Crushed By – Inspection #317819118**

A **59 year old male** employee was pinned under a forklift while repairing the starter switch. The victim worked as a maintenance employee at the site and was responsible for forklift repairs. A forklift that would not start was moved to the assembly area, where troubleshooting and possible repair could take place. A maintenance supervisor removed the floor board from the forklift and left the area to retrieve a flashlight. The maintenance supervisor asked the victim for his help in repairing the broken lift. The victim diagnosed the problem and returned to the maintenance area to retrieve a forklift jack and a multi-meter to test for a bad electrical connection. The victim thought there was a wiring issue with the starter and he was going to test the wire with a multi-meter from underneath. The victim placed the jack behind the left front tire of the forklift and raised the forklift off the ground. No secondary support system was used. The victim then asked the supervisor to go to the other side of the forklift and when the indication was given turn the switch to the “on” position. The victim crawled underneath the forklift as the supervisor walked to the other side of the forklift. The supervisor heard the victim say something and noticed the forklift starting to move in a downward motion. At this point employees working in the area heard a loud noise and noticed the forklift had fallen from the jack. An employee working near the accident informed management that an accident occurred and that 911 had been called. Management rushed out to the floor to find another employee, who had been working in the area, had retrieved a nearby forklift, placed its forks under the forklift the victim had been working on and lifted the forklift off the victim so that the supervisor could pull him out from under the forklift. The victim had been hit in the head and was breathing and bleeding when he was removed from underneath the forklift. First aid and CPR were started until emergency Services arrived. The victim was taken by ambulance to the local hospital. The victim later died as a result of his injuries. During the TOSHA investigation no manufacturer marking, serial number, or weight rating were observed on the jack. The jack was labeled with the following warnings:

1. This forklift jack is designed only to raise and lower a load,
2. DO NOT use this jack to support a load as a jack stand,
3. After raising a vehicle NEVER allow any part of your body to pass under it and NEVER begin work on the vehicle until it is properly supported by means of adequate stands,
4. NEVER begin work on vehicle until jack is removed from work area.

### **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**

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| Item 1 1910.244(a)(1)(ii) | Rated load(s) of portable jack(s) were not legibly and permanently marked in a prominent location on the jack(s) by casting, stamping, or other suitable means, in that the forklift jack being used to raise the Toyota forklift, model 7FGCU25, did not have any legible permanent markings on it as to its rated load capacity at the time of the accident. |
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| Item 2 1910.244(a)(2)(iii) | Loads that had been raised were not cribbed, blocked or otherwise secured, in that the Toyota Forklifts, model 7FGCU25, was not cribbed, blocked or otherwise secured after it was raised. |
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Photo 2 of 3: Forklift jack used during the incident.



Photo 3 of 3: WARNING(s) posted on the forklift jack.