

Struck By—Insp # 1525401 Clear Shine Logistics, LLC.

A **51 year old male** employee was **struck by a load** of insulated metal panels while unloading them from a 40' flatbed trailer at a construction site for a self-service storage facility. This is classified as a logistics/delivery service company.

Upon arrival at the site, driving a Ford F350 dual-axled truck with attached BigTex 22GN 48' Spread Axle goose neck trailer, the victim was instructed to go to an area at northeast end of the lot for to wait while the superintendent conducted the daily inspection of the JLG All-Terrain forklift to be used to remove the material. Through witness statements it was learned that upon parking, the victim proceeded to remove the straps securing the material.

The site superintendent proceeded to unload the smaller material from rear of the trailer and place it in the grass at the northern part of the lot. First offloaded was some smaller boxes then he began to remove five plastic wrapped bundles of insulated metal panels that ranged from 24'-31' in length. The bundles were positioned on the goose neck trailer with three bundles on the eastern side of the trailer and two on the western. The bundles varied in width just as length making the three bundles to the eastern side equal to the two on the western side measuring at approximately 7' in height. The total of all insulated panel bundles being approximately 12,723 lbs.

The superintendent stated that he returned to the eastern side of the trailer to remove the three smaller bundles and saw the victim near the goose neck when maneuvering into position to unload. Once the forklift was in line with the load the superintendent verbally communicated to the victim by asking if he was "clear" to which he replied he was clear.

The superintendent proceeded to place the forks below the top bundle of panels on the eastern side. Once the forks started to lift the top bundle from the trailer, the two bundles on the western side of the trailer shifted, ultimately falling from the trailer. It was learned that the panels were only lifted approximately 3" when the shift occurred. After the material fell from the trailer, the superintendent called to the victim and got no response so dismounted the lift and walked to the other side of the trailer to find that he had been struck and pinned by one of the bundles.

The bundle that struck the victim was identified as weighing about 3,432 lbs. It is believed that the victim left the area of the goose neck and maneuvered towards the northwestern end of the trailer to retrieve a strap that was on the ground when the lift was initiated.

Review of documents and employee interviews identified that the superintendent was a highly experienced forklift operator and was aware of the dangers associated with the lift that was taking place.

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**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.

The victim was the owner/operator of the business & no other employees were exposed to a hazard. Conversations with the employer's legal staff identified that the business was being dissolved; therefore, no citations were issued.



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