

A **53 year old male** employee **fell approximately 27”** to the ground when he fell out of a forklift during the course of repacking bags to totes in the sand shed. This facility manufactures catalysts such as Desox which takes sulfur out of products by absorbing it.

The job the victim was performing is a customer based depending on whether they wanted the product in a bag or in a tote. The proper way to repack the bags to totes according to the job procedure included: do the normal tote inspection for the tote to be used and fill out an inspection sheet, using a fork truck, set up the tote with the cutdown repacking tote on top of it, hang the bag to be repacked above the repacking tote and lower until the bag is resting against it, use the rolling ladder to gain access to the door of the repack tote, reach into the repack door and untie the outer bag (pull down the inner liner and untie it), discharge the entire bag into the tote bin, transfer the product tag to the tote bin, seal the tote bin, and dispose of the product sack. Employees stated that totes and bags were kept in the sand shed, and an empty tote or full bag would have to be transported each time to perform the process and then transport the full tote back to the sand shed for storage. This process involved entering and exiting the forklift multiple times.

On the day of the incident, the victim somehow fell out of the forklift to the ground and sustained injuries to his left side/chest. He did not report the fall to the employer for 3 hours. Once reported, an internal investigation revealed that the victim had been driving a forklift to move product totes from the process building to the storage shed. He unloaded a tote and backed up the forklift. He then wanted to double check the tote number, so he placed the forklift in neutral and set the parking brake. The victim then proceeded to get off the forklift on the left side. Upon moving, the employee suspected he tripped or missed a step and fell to the ground hitting the left side of his body. The victim could not recall exactly how he fell. It is assumed that he either caught his left foot on the footrest or his left foot missed the step on the forklift. The footrest measured approximately eight inches wide and three inches tall. The step measured approximately six inches by nine inches.

Thirteen days after the incident, the victim succumbed to his injuries. The medical examiner determined that due to the blunt force injury to the leg and chest, the victim had multiple pulmonary embolisms.

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.

No citations were issued as no standards were violated.



