

## Forklift truck incident

Safety Flash Published on 10 May 2007 Generated on 20 January 2025 IMCA SF 04/07

**A Member has reported an incident in which an employee was injured whilst working with a forklift truck.**

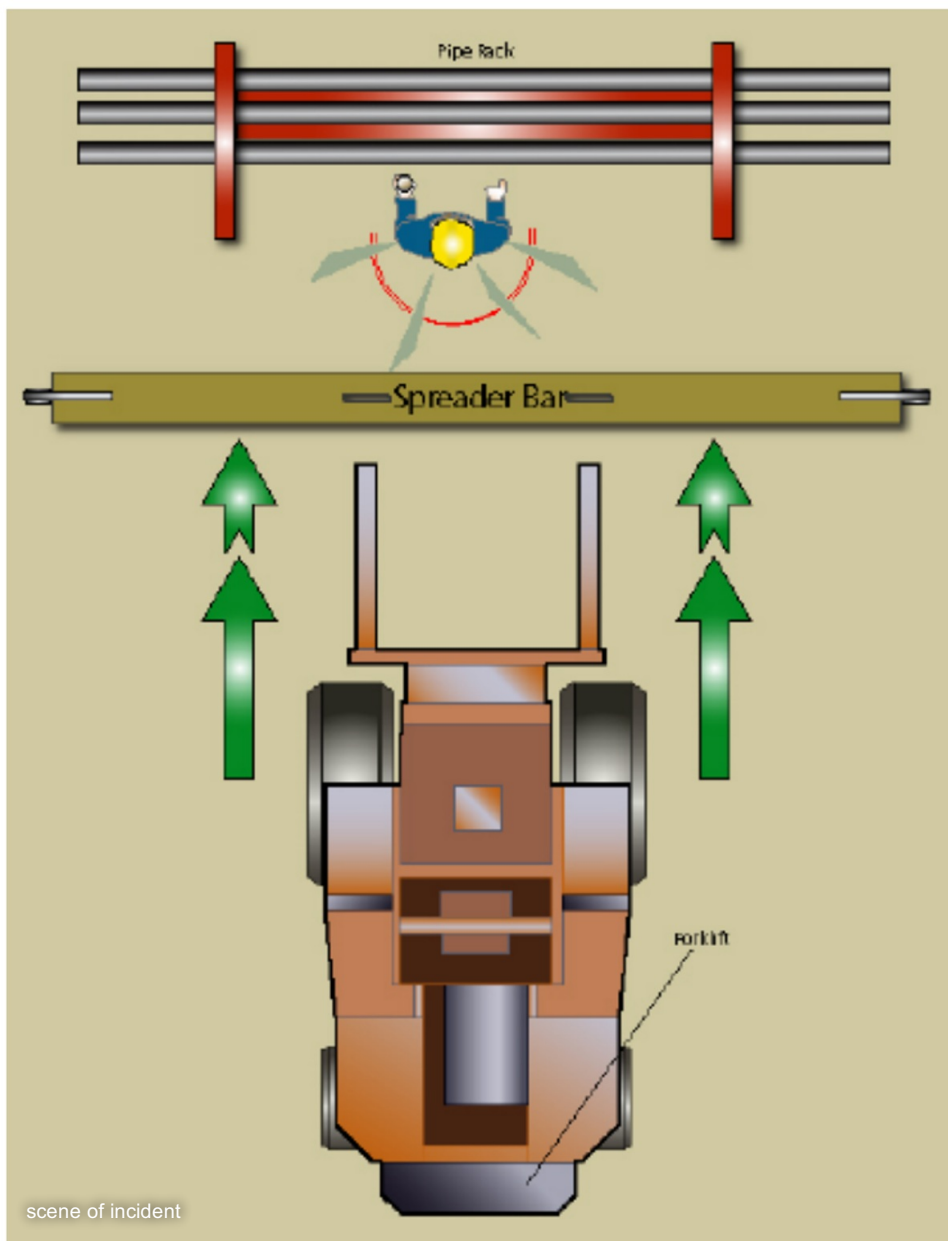
### What happened?

Two crew members had placed slings on a pipe and planned to move it with a forklift truck and a spreader bar consisting of an i-beam 2½ metres long by 20 cm wide. The pipe was located in a pipe rack.

The forklift was parked on the opposite side of the spreader bar with the forks on the deck with the motor turned off. One of the crew got in the forklift, started it and lifted the forks to position them to have the slings placed on the forks. The other crew member was holding the slings and standing between the rack and the spreader bar.

The forks hit the spreader bar and moved it toward the rack, catching the individual's left calf between the bar and the rack and causing severe bruising. He subsequently had to visit the doctor and the injury led to a time lost from work of around two weeks.

The injured crew member was a short service employee who was being mentored by a more experienced 'lead man'. The more experienced mentor had left the scene before the forklift truck was started to perform another task elsewhere, leaving the lift to another crew member and the short service employee.



## Lessons learnt

The company has noted the following lessons learned:

- The inexperienced crew member did not appreciate that he was putting himself in a hazardous situation; nor did his co-worker take action to prevent this unsafe act.
- The mentoring program had not worked as intended. The mentoring program and a proper explanation of work procedures should be emphasised in pre-shift meetings and during vessel orientation.
- If the mentor had to leave the immediate work area during lifting operations, work should stop until that they returned.
- Personnel should inspect their work areas and identify hazards that need to be removed.
- Mentors should to emphasise work procedures in a toolbox talk whenever

there are changes to the circumstances of the work being conducted.

- Mentors should identify the risks associated with a task to short service employees and explain the hazards and preventative measures.
- All workers should remember the saying 'never place yourself between a rock and a hard place' and beware of potential crush zones!

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