



Significant Incident Report No. 203

Subject: Operator crushed by mast of forklift truck - fatal accident

Date: 21 July 2014

Summary of incident

A worker was fatally injured when he was trapped between the mast and frame of a forklift truck.

The forklift had bottomed-out and was stuck on the crest of a ramp that provided pedestrian access into a process building. The worker, who had a high risk work licence for operating a forklift truck, planned to lift the front of the forklift with a mobile crane to release it. He had positioned himself between the mast and frame of the forklift truck to attach a lifting sling to the mast. He was not using the marked slinging points.

It appears that the control level for the mast's tilt cylinder was inadvertently activated, causing the mast to close and crush him.

Direct causes

- The worker positioned himself between the mast and the frame of the forklift, in a marked crush point.

Contributory causes

- The forklift became stuck after it was driven onto a location where there was inadequate clearance to operate.
- The sling was not positioned on the marked slinging points.

Actions required

Mine operators are reminded of the importance of maintaining safe systems of work when operating mobile plant. They should ensure that:

- all tasks are risk assessed and controls are implemented
- management plans are in place for the safe operation of mobile plant
- workers are made aware of site-specific conditions in addition to holding the relevant high risk licence, where required.

Further information

Worksafe WA has prepared a guidance note for working safely with forklifts, available at www.commerce.wa.gov.au/worksafe

The general standards and operation of forklift trucks is addressed in Australian Standard AS 2359 *Powered industrial trucks*.

This Significant Incident Report was approved for release by the State Mining Engineer on 21 July 2014