

ENERGY & CHEMICALS HSE ALERT



Recently, an unfortunate fatal incident occurred on an E&C project when a contractor employee was backed over by a reversing side mounted, telescopic boom fork lift. The preliminary information identified the equipment as a Caterpillar TH560B Telehandle known as a right sided telescopic boom material handling lift truck. The contractor employee was tasked to clear and enforce a no pedestrian zone when he walked into the path of the reversing fork lift and was fatally injured. All back up signals were operational at the time.

The type of equipment involved is commonly referred to as a 'teleboom' or 'right sided telescopic boom lift truck' and is similar as those shown in the three photographs above. Any elevation in the boom results in the operator of the forklift having a significantly reduced field of view. Consequently, any increase in the booms elevation from the lowered position results in an increase in the vehicles blind sport as a result of the boom blocking the driver's ability to see the right side of his vehicle and or his right mirror.

Therefore, all E&C projects that have this type of equipment must ensure the following is completed:

1. All site personnel, especially operators and spotters, are made aware of this incident and the current preliminary findings upon receipt of this Alert.
2. All supervision will ensure that operators re-review the manufacturers operating instructions and emphasize:
 - a. Proper boom placement when traveling
 - b. Traveling in direction of the best visibility
 - c. Flagmen placement for safe backing and movement (one or two depending on situation)
 - i. Provide Flags and air horns (where needed)
 - d. Develop non pedestrian / safe zones for this equipment and train accordingly
 - e. Utilize safer alternative equipment sources when available
3. Develop a Risk Assessment and positive actions taken for forklift operations in avoiding incidents. The risk assessment process must have the following included but not limited to:
 - a. Type of equipment and alternatives
 - b. Type of terrain and product to be lifted and moved and hazards associated with
 - c. Worker and structural / physical congestion
 - d. Operating routes
 - e. Near misses and incidents
4. Develop or modify existing site specific procedure for improvement of operations using telehandle type forklifts. Procedure will need to have sign off and approval from site manager, construction manager and site HSE manager. If procedure already addresses the above, provide the procedure.
5. Complete items 1 through 4 and submit status to your Regional HSE Director no later than October 31, 2008.

If any questions, please contact your regional HSE director or Brad Dunker, E&C HSE Director at brad.dunker@fluor.com or 910.616.4445.

October 6, 2008