

# Safety and health alert

## 31/95 Fork-lift driver crushed

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### Incident

A 750kg bundle of timber fell and crushed the roof of a fork-lift in a timber distribution centre in Manjimup in December 1995, fatally injuring the driver.

The fork-lift was being used to move bundles of timber from stacks. The top bundle from a stack behind the fork-lift was dislodged and fell onto the fork-lift.

### Factors

- The driver was not trained according to Worksafe Guidelines NOHSC: 7019 (1992) and AS 2359.2 - 1985 Industrial Truck Code, Operators.
- Risks were not adequately assessed, and safe systems of work to minimise the risk of injury were not provided.
- The driver was not adequately supervised.
- The fork-lift did not have a fall on protective structure (FOPS).
- The fork-lift was not designed for use in rough terrain.
- An operator's manual was not provided with the fork-lift.

### Recommendations

1. Employers must assess any proposed work and use a system of work that ensures the employee and other persons at the workplace are not exposed to hazards.
2. Fork-lifts designed to be used on indoor and flat surfaces should not be used on rough terrain.
3. Fork-lifts must have FOPS when working near material stored at heights, that may fall onto the fork-lift.
4. Employers must provide trainee fork-lift operators with managed training programs, and should use trainee log books.
5. Fork-lift operators must be trained. A list of accredited training providers is available from the Department, telephone (08) 9327 8762.
6. Operator manuals must be available to operators - this includes hire fork-lifts. Operators must have information on the operating limits of the fork-lift to operate the fork-lift safely.

### Further Information

Further information can be obtained from the WorkSafe internet site [www.worksafe.wa.gov.au](http://www.worksafe.wa.gov.au), or by contacting customer service on 1300 307 877 or email: [safety@docep.wa.gov.au](mailto:safety@docep.wa.gov.au).

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