



“Your Connection for Workplace Safety”
Phone: 920-208-7520

We're about service, commitment, results, and accountability!

Weekly Safety Tip

Life Is All About Choices!®

May 8, 2017

SCI Safety Tip: Yield to these Pedestrian/Forklift Safety Solutions

By: Jennifer Busick

Source: <http://www.blr.com>

Date: May 5, 2017

In April, a 54-year-old worker at the Winnebago plant in Middlebury, Indiana, was struck and killed by a forklift. The worker, Ricky Schlabach, was 1 of about 70 workers who are likely to die in forklift accidents this year (71 workers were fatally injured by forklifts in 2015, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics). A lot of those workers, like Schlabach, will be on the losing end of a forklift-pedestrian confrontation. What can you do to make sure that your workers are not among them?

Here are some basic safety precautions for protecting pedestrians around forklifts.

Operator Training

Your forklift operators can be part of the solution—or part of the problem. Make sure they're the former by training them to:

- *Always* look in the direction of forklift travel.
- *Always* yield the right-of-way to pedestrians.
- *Always* sound their horn at corners, doorways, aisles, and when they are backing up.
- *Always* warn workers on foot using their horn, lights, and hand signals.
- *Never* exceed the in-plant speed limit.
- *Never* leave a running forklift unattended.



SCI Safety Slogan



James Lehrke-SCI

Pedestrian Training

Pedestrians, too, can keep themselves safe by:

- *Always* steering clear. Forklifts cannot stop quickly; they are much heavier than they look. Workers should stay out of a forklift's direction of travel.
- *Always* paying attention. It's tempting to tune out the flashing lights and horns of forklifts, and the louder the workplace is, the more tempting it may be. But a worker's awareness of forklifts could save his or her life.
- *Always* wearing their high-visibility clothing, if they have it.
- *Never* assuming that the forklift operator sees them. Unless pedestrians are certain that the forklift operator has seen them and will wait for them to cross, pedestrians should yield the right-of-way.
- *Never* lingering in a blind spot. Forklifts, like other vehicles, have blind spots, and workers should know where those blind spots are and avoid them.



Workplace Layout and Design

The layout of the workplace can help to prevent forklift-pedestrian accidents. For example:

- *Separate travel lanes.* Wherever possible, forklifts and pedestrians should have their own lanes for travel, and these should be separated by bollards or other substantial barriers.
- *Smooth, dry surfaces.* Broken concrete and wet surfaces can increase the possibility of a forklift tipping, and gravel or wet surfaces can increase the stopping distance.
- *Lighting.* Poor lighting and visibility make it more difficult for forklift operators and pedestrians to see each other.
- *Mirrors.* Mirrors can let both sides see what's coming at a blind corner.

Forklift Maintenance

A forklift that is in poor condition is dangerous to the operator and to anyone else nearby. To protect pedestrians, do a preshift inspection to ensure that these components are in working order:

- Horn
- Backup beeper
- Lights
- Brakes
- Steering

SCI OSHA: Are your managers choosing profits over protection?

Source: <http://www.blr.com>

Date: May 3, 2017

New research suggests that managers of U.S. companies trying to meet earnings expectations may be compromising the health and safety of workers to please investors.

A study published in *The Journal of Accounting and Economics* says companies may create incentives for employees to increase productivity or reduce expenses. However, these actions often come at the expense of worker protection. The study was conducted by Professor Naim Bugra Ozel of the University of Texas Dallas and Dr. Judson Caskey of UCLA. They found that companies that met, or just beat analyst expectations have a 12 percent higher injury rate than other businesses.



Using injury data from OSHA and companies' financial information, the researchers examined company spending and worker output. They found that discretionary expenditures are associated with high injuries in firms that meet or just beat expectations. That, they say is consistent with the conclusion that businesses cut safety spending such as oversight and employee training.



Aurora Health Care®

Quick Tips for Healthy Living

May is Mental Health Month

This year for *May is Mental Health Month*, Mental Health America (MHA) is talking about *Risky Business*. We believe it's important to educate people about habits and behaviors that increase the risk of developing or exacerbating mental illnesses, or *could be signs of mental health problems themselves*.

One form of risky business is prescription drug misuse. Prescription medications are an important part of treating many health issues and are used effectively by millions of people; however, when misused they become the problem instead of the solution. We'll look at some of the most commonly misused prescription drugs: opioid pain killers, tranquilizers (used for anxiety and muscle spasms), sedatives (used for sleep disorders), and stimulants (used for ADHD and obesity).

What do we mean by "misuse"?

Misuse is when a person uses a prescription drug that is not intended for them, or uses a prescription in a way that is different than how the doctor indicated (using larger amounts, taking it more often, or using it for longer than prescribed).

Why do people misuse prescription drugs?

People who misuse prescription drugs may be self-medicating to control symptoms of an existing (and possibly undiagnosed) physical or mental health disorder, or because they like the way the drugs affect them and think they are safe to use. Sixteen percent of parents and twenty-seven percent of teens believe that using prescription drugs to get high is safer than using street drugs.

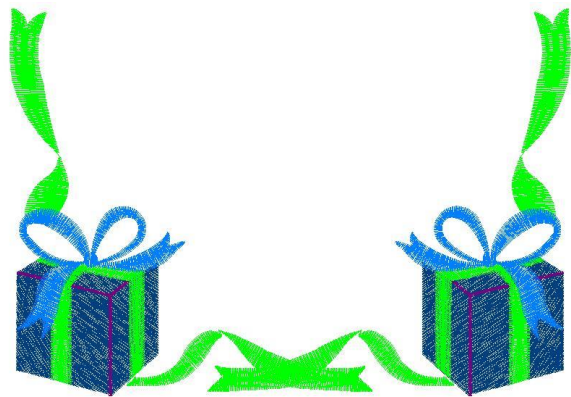
What can you do about prescription drug misuse?

- Use medications as directed.
- Talk to your doctor about non-addictive options for treating the condition that you are being medicated for if you feel at risk for misusing your prescription. Also make sure to consult your healthcare provider before adjusting medication dosage.
- Store medications in a safe place where they cannot be accessed by others who may want to use them inappropriately.
- Call 911 or get immediate help if you or a loved one have a medical emergency related to prescription drugs.
- Properly dispose of expired or unused medications. Over half of people who misused prescription pain relievers got them from friends or relatives.

For more information, visit www.mentalhealthamerica.net

According to Ozel, "Our research suggests that there is also an increase in the workload of the employees so it's not just cutting expenditures, but asking employees to work a little harder." He says that might take the form of overtime, or expecting workers to accomplish more in a shorter time period. "If employees are forced to work harder, they might inadvertently ignore the safety procedures themselves," he added. The study found that the link between injuries and expectations is weaker in highly unionized industries. This speaks to the role of unions in negotiating for and enforcing safety measures.

SCI wants your feedback! Your opinion matters to us! Participate in the survey and you could receive a gift from us! Drawing will be held at the end of May! Take the survey listed below:
goo.gl/sUOPXN



SCI wants to expand our services online! What do you think?

*What do you think?
Send us an email at:
j1connections@aol.com
See our bold new look*

In Loving Memory...
Jessica, Kristin and Nick



**SAVE TOMORROW
THINK SAFETY TODAY**