



ALASKA FACE Facts

Department of Health and Social Services
Division of Public Health-Section of CHEMS
Occupational Injury Prevention Program

Apprentice plumber killed while using power lift



A 40-year-old apprentice plumber died after he was pinned between a ceiling water pipe and the rail of a personnel platform. The incident was not witnessed, but evidence suggested that he was using a straddle lift truck to elevate himself to a leaking water pipe. While leaning over the platform rail to manipulate the lift control lever with a 10-foot pole, he became pinned between the rising platform rail and the pipe. He was found approximately 30 minutes later by a co-worker who immediately began to lower the lift platform. As the pressure was released, the victim slid out of the personnel platform on the lift carriage and fell approximately 8 feet to the floor. The co-worker called 911 who instructed him to begin CPR until emergency medical services arrived. The victim was transported to a nearby hospital where he died 3 days later.

Based on the findings of the investigation, to prevent similar occurrences, employers should:

- Ensure completion of forklift training prior to the use of the equipment;
- Ensure that employees use equipment according to safe methods of operation specified by the employer and equipment manufacturer. Modifications or additions to equipment should be reviewed and authorized by the manufacturer prior to alteration and should meet all mandatory safety guidelines established for the alteration;
- Ensure that equipment is inspected according to manufacturer's guidelines and any improperly functioning equipment is removed from service for repair or adjustment;
- Design, implement, and enforce a comprehensive safety program that includes, but is not limited to, specific written policies and procedures for the assignment of safety responsibilities, safety training of all employees, use of equipment, and recognition and control of hazards.

To view previous FACE reports please visit the Occupational Injury Prevention Program website:

http://www.hss.state.ak.us/dph/chems/occupation_injury

or

Call or fax your request to:

907-269-5221 (phone) 907-269-5236 (fax)

To receive the latest FACE updates via the Internet please send an email to djilly@health.state.ak.us