

Please Post



# Safety Lessons Learned Accident Abstract

**Accident Type:** Equipment/Motorized Vehicle/Material Handling  
**Injury:** None  
**Damage:** <\$15K  
**Equipment Involved:** Pettibone Extendable Boom Forklift, Model 1048  
**Type of Work:** Waterfront Pier Upgrade



## DESCRIPTION OF THE ACCIDENT:

A contractor was in the process of removing damaged silt curtains from the water adjacent to the pier. He was utilizing a Pettibone forklift equipped with an extending boom. The operator of the forklift raised one end of the curtain up, but could not clear the wooden guardrail, or set the curtain down in a clear area. He raised the outrigger stabilizers, and repositioned by backing up the forklift. The operator began to lift and extend his boom to raise the silt curtain, but failed to re-lower the forklift's outriggers. As the boom extended, the forklift began to tilt to its side, and slowly fell over. The forklift came to rest on a portable toilet and the roof of a de-energized electrical transformer building on the deck of the pier. The operator easily exited the equipment cab, and was not injured.

## DIRECT CAUSE:

- ◆ A portion of the silt curtain in the water was snagged or caught in the mud. The resultant pulling force exceeded the weight limit of the unstable forklift.

## INDIRECT CAUSES:

- ◆ Inattentive operator, and failure to follow manufacturer's guidelines for proper forklift operation.
- ◆ Failure of the operator to extend outrigger stabilizers during lifting operation.
- ◆ Spotter/supervisor improperly positioned to provide clear sight of both the load and the equipment operator.
- ◆ The adjacent transformer box and toilet required additional maneuvering of the forklift to get into position to complete the lift.

## ROOT CAUSE:

- ◆ Failure to implement and enforce safe material handling lift procedures.

## LESSONS LEARNED:

- ◆ Implement an effective job-specific Activity Hazard Analysis. Conduct daily task briefings utilizing current AHAs.
- ◆ Equipment operators must be knowledgeable and familiar with the lift capacities of the equipment being operated.
- ◆ Equipment limitations, tipping hazards, and loads being handled must be clearly understood before making a lift.
- ◆ Never deviate from manufacturer's recommendations for the equipment being operated.
- ◆ Supervisors should function strictly as observers and supervisors, and not as part of the hands-on work crew.
- ◆ If objects are caught or hung-up during an equipment lift, stop work, identify the blockage, and remove the problem so that work can progress safely.
- ◆ Do not develop overconfident attitude that an operation is routine, just because it has been successfully accomplished on a previous occasion.

**YOUR SAFETY CONTACT IS....**