



TOOLBOX

SAFETY TRAINING

Company _____ Location _____ Date _____

Vol 32 - No 34 ROUGH TERRAIN FORKLIFT ACCIDENT

INCIDENT DESCRIPTION:

A 30 year old carpenter working at an apartment complex under construction climbed onto a trash basket on the forks of a rough terrain forklift (RTFL) that was being used as a personnel lift. The worker was lifted to the third story of the building to nail down siding. The operator of the RTFL started his lift about 20 feet from the building and slowly approached the building.

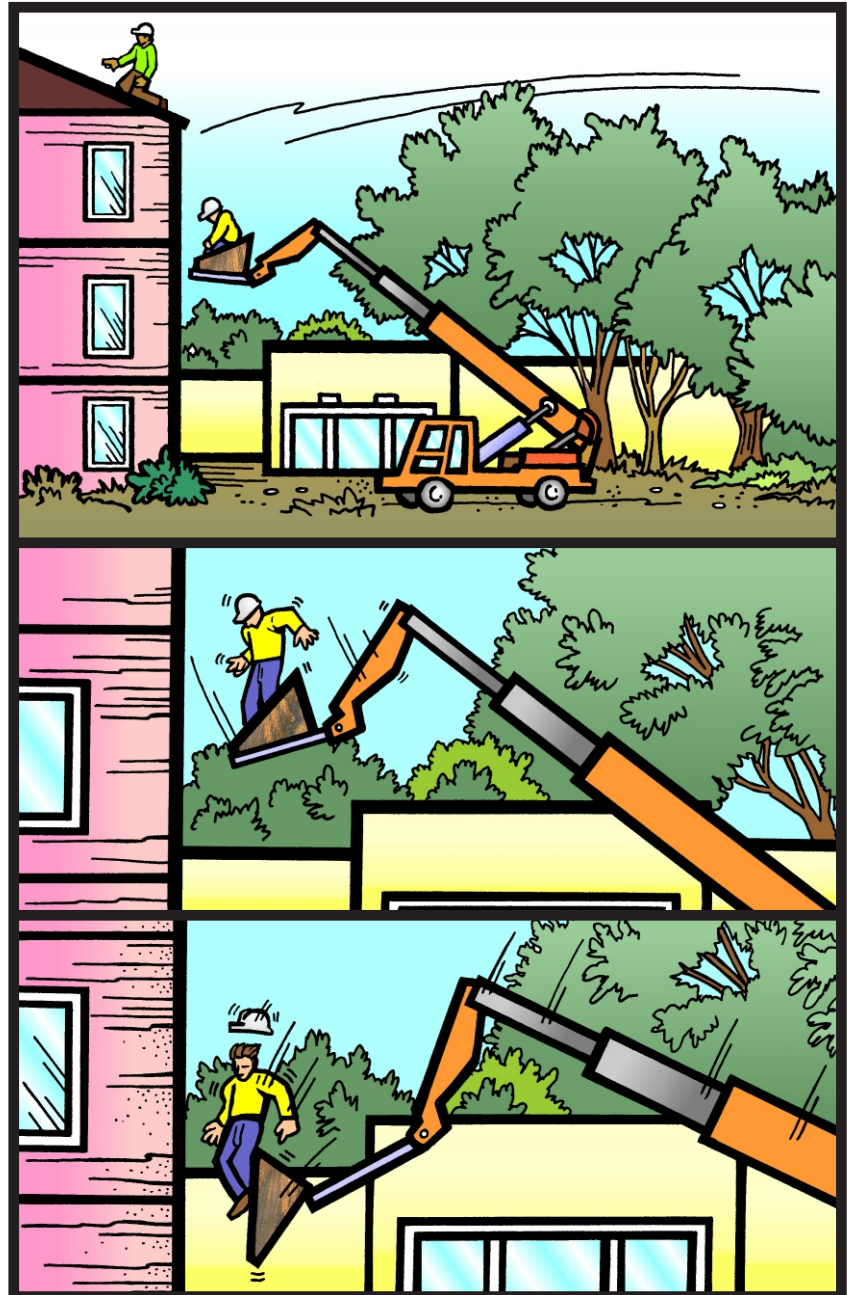
As the operator reached the height that was required, he accidentally tilted the mast causing the basket to slide down the forks. In panic, he lowered the forks but continued to tilt the mast causing the basket and the worker to fall from the third floor. The worker suffered multiple injuries to his legs and ribs.

Upon investigating the accident, it was found the operator was not certified as a RTFL operator.

SAFETY RECOMMENDATIONS:

This accident could have been prevented by following the proper precautions on RTFL safety.

1. Never use a trash basket on the forks as a personnel lift. Only a approved RTFL manufacturer which complies with ANSI B56.6 section 5.15 can be used as a personnel lift and the man basket must be secured to the RTFL by a positive means.
2. An operator must be in the vehicle at all times when the basket is raised.



1910.178(l)(1)(i) The employer shall ensure that each powered industrial truck operator is competent to operate a powered industrial truck safely, as demonstrated by the successful completion of the training and evaluation.

1910.178(l)(6) Certification. The employer shall certify that each operator has been trained and evaluated as required by this paragraph (l). The certification shall include the name of the operator, the date of the training, the date of the evaluation, and the identity of the person(s) performing the training or evaluation.

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