



August 21 — Watch Out for Each Other

A customer's employee was driving a fork truck in a load out tunnel. My coworker and I were working on lights in the same area. I was backing off the ladder, and my coworker grabbed me and pulled me toward him. At that time A fork truck drove right past me through the overhead door with no sound of the horn, letting people know he was coming through. This could have been a serious accident, and I could have potentially walked into the line of fire causing serious injury, if not for my coworkers help.

I stopped the fork truck driver on his next pass and asked him if that fork truck was equipped with a horn. He replied yes. I then told him that when driving through doors he should sound the horn to let people in the area know he is coming. I think that is SOP Anyway.

Sometimes the person who keeps you safe...

...is standing right beside you.

Two employees were working together in a load-out tunnel, replacing lights near an overhead door where forklift traffic was common. As one employee stepped backward off a ladder, unaware of what was approaching behind him, a customer-operated forklift entered the area without sounding its horn. Fortunately, his coworker saw the danger, reacted immediately, and pulled him out of the forklift's path before a serious incident could occur.

Near misses like this remind us that our attention can become focused on the task in front of us. Climbing down a ladder, carrying tools, or concentrating on the work can make it easy to lose awareness of what's happening around us. That's why communication, warning signals, and teamwork are critical whenever people and mobile equipment share the same work area.

One quick decision by a coworker changed the outcome of this event. Looking out for one another isn't just being helpful—it's one of the strongest safety controls we have. Every employee has the ability to recognize a hazard, speak up, or take action before someone gets hurt.

Hazards

- Struck-by hazards from mobile equipment
- Blind spots around forklifts
- Lack of audible warning signals
- Line-of-fire hazards
- Distractions during work activities
- Limited situational awareness

Words of Wisdom

The best safety partner isn't just someone who works beside you, it's someone who watches out for you.

Pause and Think

- If someone near you was about to step into danger, would you recognize it in time to act?
- Are you aware of forklift routes and traffic patterns where you're working?
- What can operators and pedestrians do to communicate effectively in shared work areas?
- How can we avoid becoming so focused on the task that we lose awareness of our surroundings?
- When was the last time a coworker helped prevent a mistake—or you helped prevent one?

Closing Thought

Safety is a team effort. We all have moments when our attention is focused on the job at hand, and that's when a coworker can make all the difference. Watching out for each other, speaking up, and taking action when something doesn't look right are the behaviors that prevent incidents before they happen.