

Forklift Injury

WHAT HAPPENED

A forklift operator was stacking units of OSB in the warehouse staging area so product could be run through the T&G line the next day. The operator was moving the product through the plant to the warehouse. As the operator stacked the two units on top of two existing units, the 2x4 center crossout (used to separate units) came off the top unit, and through the top roof guard (“headache rack”) of the forklift, striking the employee in the face, above the upper lip. The laceration required sutures to close.



CAUSAL FACTORS

Inventory practices of stacking material in the manufacturing areas creates additional required travel with unsecured loads. An opening in the headache rack of the forklift allowed the 2x4 to pass through. The crossout was warped, making it easier to move on top of the load, and the forklift was extended beyond the unit edge.

PREVENTIVE MEASURES

1. Retrofit forklifts with protective top covers that prevent a crossout from passing through.
2. Review inventory planning to ensure shortest route of travel.
3. Communicate to supply group so that this can be planned into future forklift purchases.



This Safety Alert is one in a series produced by APA in the interests of advancing safety awareness and mill safety improvement in the structural wood panel and engineered wood products industry. The cases summarized in the series are from reports submitted to APA by its members or gathered from other sources. If you have a safety-related incident that you would like to share, please contact us at 253-620-7447 or email us at john.hopp@apawood.org. Additional mill safety information, including best practices and details on how to participate in the annual APA Safety and Health Awards Program, can be found on our website at www.apawood.org.