

# Industrial Commission of Arizona

## Arizona Division of Occupational Safety and Health

January 10, 2011

The Arizona Division of Occupational Safety and Health (ADOSH) recently investigated several fatalities involving misuse of forklifts. In each of the fatalities, the victim was killed as a result of a combination of factors, including: 1) a lack of proper training on the safe use of the forklift, 2) failing to utilize a seatbelt, and 3) failing to operate the lift in the manner prescribed by the manufacturer.

In each fatality, the victim was not wearing a seatbelt and, upon overturning of the lift, was thrown from the seat and crushed by the operator cage. In one case, while the employer provided training to employees on lift operation, that training was in direct contradiction to the instructions provided in the manufacturer's operator manual.

ADOSH is concerned about the number of forklift fatalities that have occurred in recent months and we urge all employers whose employees operate forklifts to ensure that a training program meeting the manufacturer requirements and the OSHA forklift standards is implemented, and that all employees follow safe use requirements, including the use of a seatbelt at all times.

Questions regarding the OSHA forklift standards can be addressed to the ADOSH Consultation section at 602-542-1769 or 520-628-5478.