

# Safety Alert



Alert 09—01: October 2009

## FATAL FORKLIFT ACCIDENT

### WHAT HAPPENED:

A scrap yard forklift operator suffered fatal injuries as a result of a forklift rollover while operating on uneven terrain. The operator, *who was not wearing the seatbelt*, attempted to jump from the forklift as it began to roll over and was crushed by the protective cage.



### WHAT CAUSED IT:

Forklift which is normally used inside a non-ferrous warehouse with smooth concrete floor was taken outside to assist in unloading a truck away from the dock. Large potholes and other uneven surfaces in the driveway created an unstable condition contributing to the rollover. Seatbelt use would have likely reduced or prevented injury.

### CORRECTIVE ACTIONS:

- Retraining of all authorized forklift operators about the requirement of wearing seatbelts whenever operating the device and company policy requiring operation of forklift devices only on indoor, level surfaces.
- Inspection of all forklifts for properly adjusted seatbelt, free of wear
- Reposting of signs denoting areas where forklift operation is prohibited

**The Corrective Actions stated in this Alert are one company's attempts to address the incident and do not necessarily reflect the position of ISRI Safety or the ISRI Safety & Environmental Council**

This material is presented for information purposes only. Managers and Supervisors should evaluate this information to determine if it can be applied to their own situations and practices.

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