

FATAL ALERT

On August 16, 2012, an employee working alone for a chemical distribution warehouse was crushed by a 525-gallon (4,540 pound) stainless steel Intermediate Bulk Container. The employee elevated the Intermediate Bulk Container approximately 18 inches using a forklift to collect some of the product from a valve located near the bottom of the container. The Intermediate Bulk Container was lifted from a side which did not engage the teeter bars and did not allow the forks of the forklift to pass completely under the Intermediate Bulk Container which was due to an angle iron guard protecting the valve. The Intermediate Bulk Container was off center on the forks of the forklift and was not secured to the forklift. The employee's death was the result of traumatic asphyxia and blunt force injuries that occurred when the container slid off the forks of the fork lift and landed on the employee.

Significant Factors:

- The employee was working alone at the time of the accident.
- The employee was collecting a sample from the container for an unknown reason.
- The container was not properly lifted and was not properly secured.
- The employee had not been adequately trained on the forklift operations relating to this activity.

Recommendations:

- Brief all employees on the facts and circumstances of this fatal mishap.
- Ensure all employees are trained on OSHA general industry rules applicable to work being performed in the warehouse.
- Train/retrain all employees to recognize and avoid unsafe work conditions when working in the warehouse.