

FATAL ALERT

On May 9, 2019, at approximately 8:00 am, two employees were loading piping onto a pipe rack installed on a pickup truck. After loading was completed, piping was observed hanging over the edge of the rack towards the rear passenger side of the pickup. Employee 1 exited the cab of a TX3000 powered industrial truck leaving the load in an elevated position. He then climbed onto the flat bed of the pickup where he tried to physically move the piping forward. He requested assistance of Employee 2, who was in a Toyota powered industrial truck. Employee 2 used his forks to lift the piping upward. The piping teetered forward striking the pickup truck's passenger side mirror then fell backward off the racking landing in front of the Toyota. Employee 1 fell at the same time backwards off the bed of the pickup. It is unknown if the piping struck Employee 1's head or if the employee's head hit the pipe.

Significant Factors

- Employee exiting the cab of a powered industrial truck he was operating to physically handle a pipe.

Recommendations

- Develop, implement and train employees on loading procedures that specifically outline steps to take if loaded piping needs to be adjusted.
- Procedures should include that loaded piping adjustments must be unloaded, restacked and then reloaded onto the vehicle.
- Prohibit employees from handling pipe in conjunction with mechanical equipment.