



ISSUE DATE: FEB 1, 2018

ALERT # 114

BC Ferries

ALL LEARNING EVENTS REPORTED TODAY

Forklift Loading/Unloading on Mezzanine



Recently a forklift driver placed a pallet of supplies on the upper level of a storage area for the supplies to be unloaded by hand. 12 to 18 inches of the fully loaded pallet was left hanging over the edge of the storage area. As an employee began to unload the pallet from front to back the weight of the items on the overhanging section of the pallet caused the pallet to flip and fall to the floor below (*approx. 10ft*). Fortunately, the motion of the pallet did not cause the employee to fall and there were no persons in the vicinity of the pallet when it hit the ground. IAR-DEAS-4186 was initiated to investigate and review risk control measures.

Lessons Learned:

- When placing a pallet on an elevated platform or mezzanine, the Operator must take care to ensure the pallet is fully supported;
- Before beginning work, the pallet should have been pulled back from the edge using a pallet jack and the gates closed, securing the area and ensuring the employee was not exposed to a fall greater than 3 meters as per WorksafeBC regulation part 11 and in accordance with number 07.06.050, Personal Safety, in the BC Ferries Safety Manual; and
- Anyone receiving material on a mezzanine or platform at heights must employ approved fall protection and ensure access to areas below is retracted and protected from falling objects.

Preventive Actions:

- All non-routine tasks should be discussed and risks evaluated before work begins;
- No worker should ever be in an area that leaves them exposed to a fall that is greater than 3 meters or exposes them to a significant hazard, without fall protection appropriate to the task; and
- No overhead work can begin until the area below is isolated from the hazards created above.

If you see something, say something, do something!