

SAFETY ALERT!

7th July 2008

WHAT HAPPENED?

On Thursday 19th June, an APS Contractor narrowly avoided a serious injury but caused considerable damage to a forklift. On this particular day the contractor lifted 3 reels of paper. The bottom two were secured in the grab, but left the top one free standing. On visual inspection he thought the reels were the same size, but they were not, & the bottom reel (being the smallest) slipped through the grab & fell to the floor. This caused a chain reaction which resulted in the top reel falling from a considerable height and landing on the roof of the fork cage.

Through our investigation, we learnt that the contractor did not know the load capacity of his forklift, nor the combined weight of the paper reels, which it turns out exceeded the forklifts lifting capacity by more than 1/2 tonne.

The attached photographs provide some indication of just how lucky the worker was. Close visual inspection of the damage to the roll cage shows a second weld was cracked. Had the paper reel fallen a few cm further back or had it been slightly larger, one can only guess what might had happened!

WHAT CHANGES HAVE OCCURRED?

This is not the first incident of its kind to occur in recent months. So far we have been lucky that there have been no injuries.

As a result of this, and previous incidents APS remind you that:

- You must check the load capacity of each forklift you operate, ie check the load capacity on the data plate of your forklift
- Paper reels exceeding 1.6m are not to be double lifted
- You **must only** lift 2 reels at a time and each reel to be securely held by the grab (ie no free standing reels)
- **At no time is it acceptable to lift 3 reels.**

These rules apply while loading, unloading, staging and transporting the paper reels around the warehouse.

CONSEQUENCES

Any APS worker who fails to follow the safe work instructions will be removed from site immediately & disciplined which could include termination.

APS wish to remind you to please take care as your safety and your life are most important.

