

Investigation Report
Worker Fatally Injured by Forklift
September 19, 2017

The contents of this report

This document reports Occupational Health and Safety's investigation of a fatality in September 2017. It begins with a short summary of what happened. The rest of the report covers this same information in greater detail.

Incident summary

A worker was operating a forklift to move a slab of granite when another worker, who was assisting in maintaining the stability of the slab, was inadvertently struck by the forklift while they moved the granite slab from the shop to the area in the back alley. The worker was taken by Emergency Medical Services (EMS) to Foothills Hospital where they succumbed to their injuries.

Background information

Granite Gallery Ltd.

Established in 2003, Granite Gallery Ltd. is family operated and owned, providing granite and quartz for commercial and residential homes. Projects can range from small bathrooms and kitchens, to large multiplex family homes and commercial spaces. Granite Gallery Ltd. also has an in-house fabrication facility.

Worker 1 held the position of labourer, had been employed with Granite Gallery Ltd. for 3 years, and was experienced and trained in the operation of the company forklift, as this was part of their daily job description.

Worker 2 held the position of polisher, had been employed with Granite Gallery Ltd. for 2 years, and was a witness to the incident.

Worker 3 held the position of labourer, had been employed with Granite Gallery Ltd. for 1 year, and was trained as a guide for the forklift operator carrying a load. Worker 3 was the fatally injured worker.

Equipment and materials

Toyota Forklift Truck 7FGU35

Worker 1 was operating a Toyota forklift truck model 7FGU35, unit number 7553 (forklift). It had its last inspection and maintenance June 9, 2017, with 3301 hours documented at the time of inspection. The forklift had an ABACO Little Giantlifter clamp on the end of the boom used to lift and transport granite slabs (Figure 1).



Figure 1. The forklift that was involved in the incident.

ABACO Little Giantlifter

Designed for material thicknesses of 15 to 75 millimetres (mm), these lifters with rubber lined jaws were developed to handle material in slab or sheet form, stacked in racks, without damaging the material's surface (Figure 2).



Figure 2. The clamp attached to the end of the forklift without the granite slabs attached.

Final Report

Sequence of events

Worker 2 was outside the bay door area taking a break when worker 3 was guiding the granite slab load of the forklift worker 1 was operating. As worker 3 was walking past worker 2, there was a brief dialogue between the two while guiding the granite being transported by worker 1.

As worker 2 was rounding the corner while holding the granite in their hand, worker 1 was checking clearances as they were turning. Worker 3, with their head turned towards Worker 2, inadvertently left the line of sight of worker 1, the forklift operator. In doing so, the forklift knocked worker 3 down face first and ran over worker 3. Worker 2 yelled that worker 3 had been knocked down; worker 1, who was driving the forklift, stopped not realizing worker 3 was under the forklift.

Worker 1 then immediately backed the forklift up off worker 3 and called for help. Several other workers within the shop came out to assist the injured worker 3. EMS was called and transported worker 3 to the Foothills Medical Centre. The worker succumbed to their injuries two days later.

Completion

A review for enforcement action was completed on February 28, 2018, and it was determined that prosecution or an administrative penalty were not appropriate based on the circumstances surrounding this incident.

This investigation was closed on June 25, 2018.

Final Report

Signatures

ORIGINAL REPORT SIGNED

June 27, 2018

Lead Investigator

Date

ORIGINAL REPORT SIGNED

June 27, 2018

Manager

Date

ORIGINAL REPORT SIGNED

July 20, 2018

Director

Date