

Lessons Learned



— MECHANICAL CONTRACTORS —

Date: 04/15/2021

Region: Kennewick

Project: Lamb Weston Pasco

Incident Title: Employee Smashes Finger Adjusting Fork Extension Under Tension

Summary

A crew of three Apollo team members were tasked with moving a large piece of equipment (economizer). The equipment had been moved before by and the crew planned on doing it the same way to move it again. Due to visual limitations there needed to be one operator, a signal person, and a spotter giving verbal directions to the signal person. Due to the base of the equipment being 6 ft. wide, and the forks on the lift only being 4 ft. long, fork extensions were used. When sliding the forks with extensions under the equipment, one of the extensions got stuck against the dunnage the equipment was staged on. The employee giving verbal direction recalls telling the signal person to tilt the forks down, the signal person does not recall this, and the operator never got the signal to do so. The employee assuming the forks were down, and tension was relieved reached in the fork extension to jar it free, when doing so the metal sprung free smashing his finger between the extension and the fork.



What Went Wrong?

- Lean concepts were not used. Equipment was being moved multiple times.
- Equipment had picking points that would have allowed for a pick and carry rather than using forks. But due to the forklifts on site, they were not rated high enough to pick it up solely, instead two forklifts were needed to tandem pick and move the equipment.
- Miss communication from verbal direction to signal person, to operator.

What Went Right?

- Team was using spotters and a signal person
- The equipment was staged on dunnage
- The same method to move has been used prior with success
- All personnel were qualified for tasks

Lessons Learned

- **Minimize material handling by lean planning. If equipment could have been placed on a truck when it was brought down from the roof with a crane, this would have been avoided.**
- **The crew was comfortable with the plan because “it’s what was done before”, however, if they had a higher rated forklift, the equipment could have been picked up using the manufactured picking points avoiding the use of forks. Complacency in the plan because it had worked before.**