

31  
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2022

# WSH ALERT

## FATAL ACCIDENT

### Worker run over by forklift

On 25 August 2022, a worker reversed a forklift up onto an inclined low-bed trailer. The worker then got out of the forklift and moved to its front when it suddenly rolled forward and ran over him. The worker was sent to the hospital where he passed away.

Preliminary investigations revealed that the forklift’s handbrake was not engaged at the time of accident.



Scene of the accident.

### Recommendations

This case shows the danger of parking heavy machines or vehicles on slopes. To prevent similar accidents, consider the following measures:

- **Safe work method:** A safer method would be to load the vehicle onto the low-bed trailer using the trailer’s winch mechanism.
- **Secure the vehicle:** Engage the vehicle’s parking brake once it is in place. Level the trailer bed, apply wheel chocks and secure the vehicle with lashing or chain slings to prevent movement.
- **Safe work position:** Instruct workers never to stand downslope of a vehicle unless it has been properly secured (e.g. with parking brake), as the vehicle could roll downwards.
- **Use of technology:** Consider equipping the trailer bed with a remote-operated winch so that the loading can be carried out from a safe work position.
- **Authorised forklift operator:** Ensure only trained and authorised persons are allowed to move forklifts. Prevent unauthorised forklift use through the implementation of a strict key management system.

For more information, please refer to WSH Council’s [Code of Practice on WSH Risk Management](#), SS 663: 2020 Code of Practice for Safe Loading on Vehicles, and SS 573: 2012 Code of Practice for the Safe Use of Powered Counterbalanced Forklifts.

\* Information on the accident is based on preliminary investigations by the Ministry of Manpower as at 29 August 2022. This may be subject to change as investigations are still on-going. Please also note that the recommendations provided here are not exhaustive and they are meant to enhance workplace safety and health so that a recurrence may be prevented. The information and recommendations provided are not to be construed as implying liability on any party nor should it be taken to encapsulate all the responsibilities and obligations under the law.

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