

# SAFETY ALERT

## ***Fatal Forklift Incident - 22 July, 2010***

As previously notified, on 22 July, 2010 there was a serious incident at a domestic paper mill resulting in a fatality. The deceased was struck by a forklift that was carrying a load of pulp bales on an internal roadway.

WorkCover NSW has already publically identified some key factors in their preliminary investigations.

- Driver was moving in a forward direction over a substantial distance.
- The visibility of the forklift driver may have been restricted.

Whilst the company and union are currently conducting a joint investigation to identify the root cause(s), some interim measures have been introduced at the mill until the investigation is complete. These interim measures are detailed below.

- ***Bales are to be transported in single bale wide stacks only.***
- ***Stacked bales carried by a forklift / clamp truck are not to exceed a height of 1280mm and are to be carried at minimum safe height off the ground. This is to ensure clear vision ahead whilst driving in a forward direction (this means 2-3 bales maximum height depending upon furnish).***

Our initial discussions with key industry OHS professionals and union representatives has already identified that carrying bales as complete packs is an accepted industry practice. Once they are delivered to their destination they are dewatered.

Whilst we are currently participating in this incident investigation, it is the intention of the Pulp & Paper Industry OHS&E Unit to further examine the wider industry implications at the conclusion of the investigation process. It is anticipated that final recommendations of the joint company and union investigation will be presented by the end of August, 2010.

Please consider reviewing your risk assessments and work procedures for these activities and introducing the interim measures as identified above.

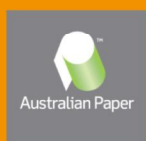
Further information:

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Pulp & Paper Industry  
Occupational Health, Safety  
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