Worker Dies After Jumping From Elevated Pallet

A 22-year-old worker died after jumping 16 feet (five meters) from an elevated pallet on a forklift that was tipping over.

The victim had been selecting items from a high shelving unit. He wore a safety belt and lanyard connected to an anchor point on the mast of the forklift.

When he finished selecting all the items in the aisle, he instructed the forklift operator to move the forklift into the next aisle. Without lowering the pallet, the operator backed the forklift out of the aisle. As the forklift was turning, it began to tip over. The victim quickly unhooked his lanyard from the anchor point and jumped from the pallet. He subsequently struck his head on the concrete floor and died six hours later.

Investigators concluded that, in order to prevent similar occurrences, employers should:

-Ensure that workers continually adhere to the safe work procedures that have been established.

-Encourage all employees to actively participate in workplace safety.

-Routinely conduct scheduled and unscheduled worksite safety inspections.