

#3: Struck By – Inspection #317585800

A **36 year old male** employee was struck by a shifting load of bundled top-rails for wire fences. A fencing company had purchased material for a fence installation from a wholesaler. The victim was standing next to the company work truck as the wholesaler employee was loading the fencing supplies onto a company work truck at the wholesaler’s work site. The wholesaler employee was using a forklift to place a bundle of sixteen 20 foot long 1 5/8 inch pipe used for top-rails on wire fences. The bundle weighted approximately 500 pounds. As directed by the company employees, the wholesaler employee placed the bundle of pipe at a 20 degree angle in the 14 foot long company truck bed. The victim was strapping the bundle at the tail section while his co-worker was hooking up a come-along to slide the bundle in to a safe position for transport. The Wholesaler employee took the forklift around to the rear of the truck and had one of the forks supporting the bundle to prevent sliding. The bundle slid off the truck and struck the victim in the head. The fence company had another work truck that was equipped with front and rear pipe racks that allowed the long pipe to be transported in a horizontal position and also had vertical members that would have prevented the pipe from sliding off to either side of the truck.

Citation(s) as Originally Issued

A complete inspection was conducted at the accident scene. Some of the items cited may not directly relate to the fatality.

Citation 1

Item 1 T.C.A. 50-3-105(1)	The employer did not furnish employment and a place of employment which were free from recognized hazards that were causing or likely to cause death or serious physical harm to employees in that employees were exposed to a struck-by hazard due to failure to prohibit employees from working close to loadings being handled on forklifts, which could shift and fall onto employees.
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The victim was struck in the head by shifting fence rails while loading the work truck