

**37 Crushed by/caught in—inspection # 1353125 Carlex Glass**

A **61 year old male** was fatally injured when his head became **caught between** the frame of the forklift and a metal windshield rack. The victim was employed as a production associate who operated a powered industrial truck.

At the time of the incident the victim had just transported two double stacked racks loaded with windshields to their destination. After setting the racks on the ground, it appeared that he attempted to pull up to the side of the racks in order to scan the racks' tags. However, as he pulled along the side of the racks it appears that he leaned his head out of the forklift looking for the tags. The tag which the employee was attempting to scan was located on the right rear corner of the rack.

It was determined that the transmission of the forklift was in forward gear and the wheels of the machine were cut all the way to the right. As such, the rear of the machine would have pivoted to the left, towards the windshield rack creating a pinch point between the upright roof support of the forklift and the rack. The victim's head was caught in between the rear roof support on the driver's side of the forklift and the double stacked metal windshield rack.

By reviewing the company's scanner log, it was determined that the employee had not yet scanned the tag at the time of the incident. Photos indicated that the scanner was resting on top of a console to the right side of the victim. The victim's right hand was not in the vicinity of the scanner, indicating that the victim had not gotten within a sufficient proximity of the tag to be able to scan it at the time of the incident.

**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**

**Type of Violation: Serious**

**\$4500**

**TCA 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:

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In that an employee was exposed to crushed-by hazards when his head was caught between the upright roof support of a forklift and a windshield rack as he did not keep his head and body inside the cab while traveling.

**Citation 1 Item 2**

**Type of Violation: Serious**

**\$2250**

**TCA 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 ejection hazards when they did not wear seatbelts while operating forklifts.

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The red arrow indicates the forklift. The yellow arrow indicates the windshield rack. The blue arrow indicates where the victim's head came in contact with the forklift. The orange arrow indicates where the employees head came in contact with the windshield rack. The windshield rack had been moved towards the rear of the forklift and away from the fork lift so aid could be rendered to the victim.



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The red arrow indicates the portion of the upright of the forklift where the victim struck his head.

