

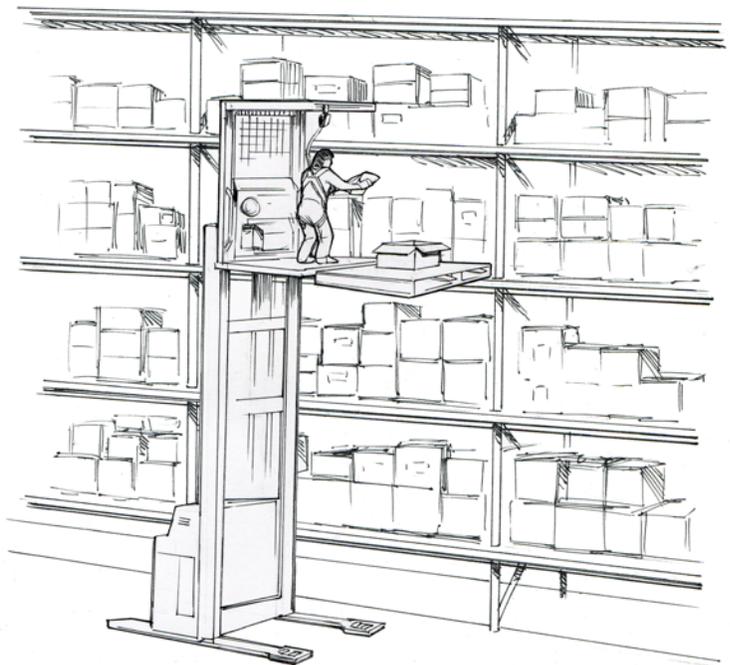


Young worker seriously injured in fall from lift truck platform

At a warehouse, a young worker new to the job was using an “order selector” type lift truck to access boxes from storage racking. The order selector had recently been acquired. The lift truck’s manufacturer warns against stepping off the designated operator’s platform. It also warns against modifying the lift truck. However, a work platform — created from a plain wood pallet with a sheet of plywood nailed on top — was mounted on the forks and secured only with the pallet clamp. The young worker was standing on this elevated site-built platform, reaching into the shelves. She had received only a short, inadequate orientation on operating the lift truck and was not using any fall protection system. She fell about 13 feet (4 metres) to the concrete floor, sustaining a serious head injury.

Safe work practices:

- Ensure that lift trucks used for order selecting are operated according to the manufacturer’s instructions and the Occupational Health and Safety Regulation.
- Use a properly secured personal fall arrest system at all times when working on the elevated work platform of an order selector. Stay on the designated operator’s platform.
- Ensure that fork-mounted work platforms are designed, installed, and used according to the manufacturer’s instructions, WorkSafeBC Standard 13.30 Work Platforms Supported by Lift Trucks, and good engineering practice. A plain pallet is not an acceptable work platform. Use work platforms supported by lift trucks *only* if other conventional means are not practicable.
- Train workers according to the lift truck training standard before authorizing them to operate lift trucks. Train them also in the fall protection requirements as described in the Occupational Health and Safety Regulation.
- Provide new and young workers with the information, training, and supervision necessary to ensure their safety.
- Establish and enforce written safe work procedures for using equipment new to the workplace.



The worker here is properly tied off and working only from the designated operator’s platform.