



Lessons Learnt – LL045

Securing of Loads

This Alert is applicable to:

Fibre		Distribution		Transmission		Wider Business	✓
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Date of issue: 20/03/2015

Incident	Description
<i>Date incident happened</i>	27/01/2015
<i>Where it happened</i>	Whangarei Depot
<i>What happened</i>	A fork lift operator lifted a transformer that was sitting on a steel pallet. One of the fork lift wheels made contact with a rock on the road which destabilised the load enough to cause it to make contact with 4x2 batons that were sitting under an adjacent transformer.
<i>Why it happened</i>	This second transformer was not sitting on a pallet but directly onto the 4x2 batons which were laid on the ground. The near side baton moved on contact and this caused the second transformer to topple off the baton sustaining an oil leak.
<i>The important things you should remember about this</i>	1. Working areas for fork lift trucks should have even ground, free from pot-holes and large rocks; 2. Pole top transformers (and other equipment) can have a high centre of gravity and are liable to falling over if not properly secured; and 3. There should be sufficient space between pallets to allow for safe manoeuvring of the fork-lift.
<i>What you must do in future OR What will happen next</i>	1. Ensure that suitably rated pallets are used where practicable, when off-loading equipment. These might include those made from steel; and 2. Materials being moved that have a high centre of gravity may need to be secured to the pallet being moved and to the fork lift, even if travelling a short distance.
<i>SM-EI Reference/ Hazard Register ID</i>	2.1010 (Fork-lift trucks)
<i>Released by:</i>	Jim Allardyce, Process Safety Engineer (please contact the author for further details)