



# Maintenance To Forklift Truck

## Safety Alert No: 4015

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WorkCover warns of the danger of supporting the carriage and tines of a forklift truck in a raised position following an incident in which a worker was killed.

The carriage of the forklift was raised so that the area behind the carriage could be serviced easily, and so that oil pressure could be released from the hydraulic lines allowing access to the rams, seals and "O" rings. The supporting timber originally used was hardwood, one piece was placed in the channel upright and another diagonally across. The diagonal piece, however, obstructed the mechanic from working on the hydraulic system.

Another piece of softwood was then placed underneath the mast and strutted diagonally onto the floor. The original pieces of hardwood were removed by the mechanic. The softwood slipped and shattered, allowing the mast to fall and killing the mechanic.

### Recommendations

One of the following two alternatives should be observed:

1. The use of a more substantial structure such as a metal frame to support the tines and carriage in the raised position
2. Where hardwood is used to support the carriage (this is common industry practice):
  - a) softwood or damaged hardwood should not be used
  - b) a method of locking the supports in the mast channels should be used to prevent accidental removal or slipping
  - c) ensure that minimum time is spent with the carriage in a raised position.

### Further information

For further information contact the WorkCover Information Centre on **13 10 50**.

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Issued by Workcover NSW and distributed by Dick Whitehead, Safety Officer, CFMEU (Construction & General Division)  
NSW Branch, 12 Railway Street, Lidcombe NSW 2141 Ph: (02) 9749 0400  
Email: [dwhitehead@nsw.cfmeu.asn.au](mailto:dwhitehead@nsw.cfmeu.asn.au); Web: [www.cfmeu-construction-nsw.com](http://www.cfmeu-construction-nsw.com)  
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