

CASE STUDY: LARGE FINE FOR HEATING FIRM AFTER WORKER CRUSHED TO DEATH



A Wednesbury heating, ventilation and air conditioning manufacturer has been fined £150,000 after a worker was crushed to death whilst working in its warehouse.

The employee, who was a production supervisor, had been stacking three-meter-long metal tubes in the warehouse when the incident happened.

With the aid of a forklift truck, he had created several stacks, but as he left his cab to set down timber pieces for the next bundle, one of the stacks (weighing a tonne) collapsed onto him. Paramedics pronounced the worker dead at the scene.

HSE found that there were no restraints nor any racking to support the tube stacks and the timber used to separate them were not a standard size.

The worker had been with the company for 34 years, and was a trained forklift driver, but neither he nor his colleagues had been given specific training or instruction on stacking the bundles. There was also no risk assessment in relation to this task.