

CASE STUDY: FORKLIFT COLLISION INJURES WORKER



A haulage firm has been fined after an employee was struck by a forklift truck (FLT) driven by an untrained operative.

Chelmsford Magistrates' Court heard that an employee was working at the company's warehouse in Rayleigh. While he was standing taking parcels from a cage, he was struck by a load carried by a FLT driven by another employee. He sustained a broken hip and has been unable to return to full time work since the incident.

Health and Safety Executive (HSE) investigations revealed that the person operating the FLT had received no relevant suitable training. The defendant's management was aware that he was operating the FLT from time to time before the incident.

The company admitted breaching Regulation 9(1) of the Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations (PUWER) 1998. The company was fined £18,000, and HSE was awarded full prosecution costs of £1,302.

The court heard from HSE that extensive published guidance on forklift truck training has long been freely available, to assist duty holders.