Wood Sheeting Falls On Helper



A forklift operator’s helper was crushed by a falling stack of wood sheeting.

The incident occurred when the driver, using the forklift to reposition the load of wood, struck the pile of sheeting and knocked it over.

Co-workers pulled the wood sheeting off the victim. He had a pulse and was breathing, but soon began to deteriorate. A bystander started Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR). Someone called 9-1-1 for an ambulance, saying there was an industrial accident; gave the name and address of the company, then immediately hung up.

The emergency dispatcher referred to an out-of-date map. The industrial site was large and had numerous gates on three different streets. Because of incorrect directions, both the ambulance and fire department were significantly delayed in their arrival.

The victim died. Investigation of the fatality showed his injuries were so serious he had no chance for survival, so the delay of the emergency vehicles did not affect the outcome.

This incident is a reminder to stay on the phone when you dial 9-1-1 in case the dispatcher needs more information. Know how to give proper directions to your workplace. Learn how to administer CPR and basic first aid; you never know when you might need to use these lifesaving skills.