

# SAFETY ALERT



AUSTRALIAN STEEL INSTITUTE  
SAFETY GROUP

*"Sharing incident learnings amongst ASI member companies"*

*"A vision of a safer steel industry"*

<b>Number:</b>	SA0013
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Pedestrian hit by forklift</b>
<b>Date :</b>	May 2006

## Incident:

- Whilst crossing the main roadway inside the Finishing area, a pedestrian failed to see or hear a forklift approaching from his left. The pedestrian proceeded onto the walkway crossing (an area where forklifts have right of way).
- At the same time, a forklift was entering the Finishing area from the outside storage area.
- The forklift driver failed to see the pedestrian entering the crossing. Both continued until the forklift's right tyre struck the pedestrian's leg, knocking him off his feet and falling on the tyre until the forklift came to a stop 2-3 meters past the crossing.
- The pedestrian was treated for minor injuries.



## Key Lessons:

- Low speed (estimated 8km/hr) reduced the severity of the incident.
- Forklifts have blind spots from the masts that reduce visibility (refer photograph).
- Forklift crossings need front of mind awareness – other activities in the area can impact on attention to the task of all parties.

## Recommendations:

- Review designated crossings through forklift areas for effectiveness, specifically gates and signage.
- Improve visibility for person and forklift. Review effectiveness of clothing (benefits of reflective strips), review forklifts (lights, contrasting mast and horns) and discuss forklift blind spots with all people on site.
- Revisit site plans for addressing Forklift procedures, specifically 8km/hr speed and separation/access in high traffic work areas. Useful information on Forklift safety can be found at [www.workcover.vic.gov.au](http://www.workcover.vic.gov.au).

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