

# SAFETY ALERT



AUSTRALIAN STEEL INSTITUTE  
SAFETY GROUP

*"Sharing incident learnings amongst ASI member companies"*

*"A vision of a safer steel industry"*

<b>Number:</b>	SA0020
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Forklift strikes utility pole</b>
<b>Date:</b>	November 2006

## Incident:

Employee had moved metal and was returning the forklift to the designated parking area. On his way to the parking zone contact was made with the bedrail of the forklift and the utility pole. The force of the contact did not stop the travel of the forklift. The employee slowed to a stop and evaluated the condition of the forklift and the utility pole before returning the forklift to its designated spot.



View from the cockpit of the forklift



Diagram of the travel of the forklift

## Key Lessons:

- Focus is a necessity when operating heavy machinery.
- Lack of visibility increases likelihood of incidents.

## Recommendations:

- Adjust the direction of travel to park the forklift.
- Make the pole more visible using hi-viz stripes.
- Install safety railing or guarding around utility pole.

For further information please contact **Ian Cairns** – National Safety Group Co-ordinator:  
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