

SAFETY ALERT



AUSTRALIAN STEEL INSTITUTE
SAFETY GROUP

"Sharing incident learnings amongst ASI member companies"

"A vision of a safer steel industry"

Number:	SA0026
Subject:	Tipped side-loader exiting warehouse
Date:	May 2007

Incident:

- Employee was exiting warehouse with tines in fully raised position. The side-loader tipped on its back when turned sharply
- The slope of the driveway is at a decline of approx 8 degrees to that of the level warehouse floor. There was no load being carried
- The employee stayed within the cage and was shaken but unhurt. He was able to climb out. The mast was bent and the fork tines thrown across the driveway



Key Lessons:

- Raised forklift tines elevated the centre of gravity. Tines must be in the down position when driving
- Side-loaders are less stable than forklifts on sloping surfaces and should be restricted in their use in such areas
- Surveillance film showed operator did not slow when turning after exiting warehouse. Operator unaware of hazardous situation created

Recommendations:

- All operators to be skills assessed on all types of side-loader/forklifts
- Confine the use of side-loaders to level floor warehouse areas. Forklifts to be used outside
- Follow up with forklift refresher training by WorkCover qualified trainers

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