

Hay Buyer Fractures Skull, Breaks Shoulder Falling off Feed Table

Industry: Agriculture
Task: Compacting Hay

Release Date: July 12, 2011
Occupation: Hay Buyer

A 22-year-old hay buyer fractured his skull and broke his right shoulder when he fell seven feet off a feed table. The victim was working a hay press when a forklift bumped a stack of hay bales knocking them over. The worker went onto the feed table to manually restack the hay bales. While restacking, one of the pieces of twine holding the 110 lb hay bale together broke. Two bales of hay immediately fell onto the victim's legs, pushing him backwards over the edge of the feed table. The victim landed on his head and right shoulder, injuring both. The victim had been asked to help a shorthanded crew because he had over eight years experience in the industry. He had been employed seven months in this workplace at the time of the incident.



Employer Requirements

- The employer is required to provide safety education training programs. See [WAC 296-307-018\(6\)](#).
- Platforms or working surfaces greater than four feet above the ground must have guardrails. See [WAC 296-307-25015](#)
- Railings can be removed when they impair operation. However, railings must be re-installed as soon as the operation is complete. See [WAC 296-307-25006](#).

Recommendations

- Work on elevated surfaces only if there is a fall protection system in place.
- Use machinery designed to lift and move heavy materials.
- Make sure you are trained on how to recognize and minimize job hazards.
- Make sure you are trained on what to do if a problem arises.

Resources

- Free workplace safety and health consultations are available from L&I at: <http://www.lni.wa.gov/Safety/Basics/Assistance/>
- For more lifting safety tips go to: <http://www.lni.wa.gov/FormPub/Detail.asp?DocID=1760>

Need more information?

Please contact Eric Jalonen, Prevention Specialist at 360-902-6751 or email Eric.Jalonen@Lni.wa.gov