

WHAT HAPPENED?

Worker crushed by falling hay bales

A worker helping to untie the canvas covering on a stack of hay bales was struck and killed by a falling hay bale.

The bales weighed about 1,500 lbs each and were stacked six bales high and two across, with a tall stand in the middle. The victim was on one side of the stack and the coworker on the other untying the canvas cover. As the victim walked around the end of the stack, the bales shifted and collapsed. Three of the large bales came down from the end row, and one of them struck and killed the victim.



WHAT CAN YOU DO TO PREVENT A SIMILAR FATALITY FROM HAPPENING AT YOUR WORKPLACE

Take these steps to help ensure a safe working environment

- Bags, bales, boxes, and other containers stored in tiers must be made secure against sliding or collapse.
- When removing material stored in piles, workers must remove material in a manner that maintains the stability of the pile and prevents collapse. Make sure your workers are trained in the safe method of tarp removal and the possible hazards involved.
- Make sure your accident prevention plan (APP) is tailored to the type of work performed and the hazards involved.

RELATED ONLINE RESOURCES

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Division of Occupational Safety and Health



www.Lni.wa.gov/Safety



1-800-423-7233



Need more information?

Go to [Get Started with Safety and Health](#) for information on workplace safety and health, rules and policies, sample programs and general assistance.

Call 1-800-423-7233 to contact the Department of Labor & Industries (L&I), Division of Occupational Safety and Health (DOSH).

Interested in a free safety and health consultation at your workplace?

The Department of Labor & Industries provides consultations, training, and technical assistance at no cost to employers. Call today to schedule a free confidential consultation or go to [Request Consultation](#) for more information. You may also call 1-800-423-7233 or visit a local L&I office and ask for the Consultation Manager.

How does an employee file a complaint?

Employees or employee representatives may file formal complaints with DOSH when they believe a safety or health hazard exists in their workplace.

[Complaint forms](#) are available from a local L&I office in both English and Spanish, or on the Web.

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This bulletin was developed by L&I's Division of Occupational Safety and Health (DOSH) to alert employers, labor groups, and employees of a tragic loss of life. The information in this bulletin is based on preliminary data and does NOT represent final determinations of the incident or conclusions regarding the cause of the fatality.