

SAFETY ALERT – Importance of Danger zones when moving glass



ISSUE

Operator injured and pinned by falling pack of glass. There was potential for a catastrophic injury as the operator had put himself in the Danger Zone.

The investigation into this incident is still ongoing but given the potential consequence it is important to reinforce the need to stay out of the Danger Zone

DESCRIPTION

A serious incident occurred at a site where an operator was trapped by a falling pack of glass while loading glass in the stock selector.

While moving the pack into the rack, one of the cardboard spacers was dislodged and prevented the pack from being positioned correctly. The pack has been lowered onto the rack bearers while attempts were made to remove the spacer.

During this process, the pack unbalanced and fell backwards, trapping the operator's hand between the safe lift system grab and the glass pack opposite.

The operator was pinned between the grab and the glass on the rack, on the RHS of the photo, by a pack that had fallen from the left. It was necessary to remove the pack sheet by sheet to free the operator.

See attached photo.



Even though the grab was fitted with the safe lift system, while lowering the pack onto the bearers the operator lost control of the pack. The pack did not have sufficient angle to keep it in position and it fell onto the operator.

STATUS OF INJURED PERSON

The operator was taken by ambulance to Hospital to check the damage to his hand. Operator was extremely fortunate and suffered no fractures but has a badly swollen hand.

KEY BEHAVIOURS

1. Always stay out of the Danger zone when moving glass
2. If something goes wrong with your normal process, cease the activity immediately, and think through the problem before continuing.
3. Once you have lowered a pack onto the bearers then gravity will take over and you will lose control if it is not positioned correctly.

CONTROL / RESOLUTION

This incident could have been avoided if the pack had not been lowered onto the rack bearers. The operator should have moved the pack back away so that the spacer could have been safely removed and repositioned.

If the operator had not entered the danger zone then the worst outcome would only have been the loss of the pack of glass.

It is critical that personnel never enter a danger zone while moving glass, either loose or in end caps.

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