

Alert

WorkSafe
VICTORIA

OHS Feature



Safety Note: Fork Lift Trucks and Walkie Stackers

NSC reported this month that Coca Cola Amatil (Australia) Pty. Ltd. has been fined \$25,000 after a man's foot was injured by a reversing forklift at one of its warehouses.

The man, a 55 year old truck driver was off work for three months after the incident in January this year.

The Magistrates Court heard that CocaCola Amatil had failed to protect pedestrians, including workers from injury through collision with a mobile plant and vehicles because of poor traffic management at its Clayton warehouse. In particular there were inadequate walkways or exclusion zones in the loading bay to allow pedestrian workers safe access to trucks.

The driver was employed by a labour hire firm that engaged drivers for Linfox. Both of these firms have also been charged and convicted over the incident with fines of \$15,000 and \$25,000 respectively.

Please take note of this and take immediate steps to assess the pedestrian walkways in the areas where your forklift truck or pedestrian forklift operates.

Jennifer Flanagan

P.S. Has your store enrolled for the MGAV OHS Training?

OHS Training 4 Afternoons OHS Training 6 Day Course

Sessions are held at our office Suite 9, 1 Milton Pde, Malvern.

**For the booking form, please go to
www.mgav.com.au**

or ring Melissa on 9824 4111

Conviction Over Carbon Monoxide Poisoning

Bi-Lo was convicted recently and fined \$10,000 after seven people received medical treatment and the supermarket was evacuated during concrete cutting in 2002.

The company pleaded guilty to one count of failing to provide and maintain safe plant and systems of work under Victoria's Occupational Health and Safety Act.

The supermarket was undergoing extensive refurbishment at the time by Rodney Wallace and Associates. An employee of subcontractor Prompt Concrete was carrying out this work using a petrol-driven concrete cutting saw. Within two hours of the work beginning, employees had developed headaches.

Feeling nauseous the foreman and another construction worker were taken to hospital after medical tests found "unacceptably high" levels of carbon monoxide in their blood.

CFA records indicated the fire service suggested the store should be ventilated with large motorised fans, however, the Bi-Lo manager told a CFA officer this would not be necessary.

As a result of the ongoing concerns, including the fact the store was open to the public, police and CFA re-attended a short time later. This time the store was evacuated while the CFA ventilated the building using fans. The supermarket re-opened 90 minutes later after testing indicated it was safe.

Atmospheric monitoring by WorkSafe after the incident indicated the use of plant within a poorly-ventilated, confined area presented a serious and immediate risk to health.

Companies engaging contractors need to have more than paperwork - they need a real system in place to ensure they are managing health and safety risks stemming from the contract work being done. **Worksafe.**

SAFETY BEGINS ON THE FLOOR

The majority of shop injuries are caused by slips and falls on floors without safety matting. Be prepared call Bardwell's TODAY!



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