

Investigation Summary

Reporting ID	Investigation Summary Number	UPA Number	Event Date	Event Time	Construction
0950632	102496	1297271	01/03/2018	03:30 PM	N

Establishment Name	SSA Pacific, Inc.	Doing Business As (DBA)	
Related Inspections			

Site Information

Street Address 1:	1090 Water Street				
Street Address 2:					
County:	SAN DIEGO				
City	SAN DIEGO	State	CA	Zip	92101

Event

Type of Event	Employee fatally injured after being unseated from forklift.		
Number of Employees			
Fatalities	Hospitalized	Non-Hospitalized	Unaccounted
1	0	0	0

Abstract

What was employee doing just before incident occurred?	Jobsite is a marine terminal. The facility handles general cargo, containers, heavy lifts, perishables, bulk, break-bulk, and roll-on/roll-off cargo. The accident occurred in the approximate 150,000 square foot Transit Shed 2, in E section. The shed is used for warehousing and storage purposes. The employer provides stevedoring services, specializing in unloading and handling a variety of cargo from incoming ships. The employee who was fatally injured was acting in his capacity as a Gearman prior to the accident. This included operating a Caterpillar forklift (Model No. P33000; Serial No. T39A-10210) to set up and place bins in preparation for an incoming vessel.
What happened?	The accident occurred on 1/03/18, on or about 3:22 PM. DOSH initially learned of the accident when a DA investigator reported the accident at 4:00 PM. The Employer reported the accident on 1/03/18 at 6:20 p.m., which complies with the reporting requirement for a fatality. DOSH arrived on the jobsite at 4:45 PM on 1/03/18. The employee was a union member of ILWU Local 29. ILWU supplies workers to SSA Pacific, Inc. (Employer). The workers supplied by ILWU are payrolled through the Pacific Maritime Association (PMA). SSA Pacific, Inc. has direction, control and authority for safety on the jobsite for ILWU members. Most workers provided by the union are also provided with a Foreman from ILWU. Tony Kern was the employees direct supervisor on the day of the accident and gave him a stow plan to direct his work activities that morning. Tony also talked to the employee minutes before the incident and instructed the employee to meet him at the shop. A video shows the employee entering Transit Shed 2 at approximately 3:22 PM. The employees supervisor entered the shed in his truck at 3:23 PM and found the employee under the rear left tire of the forklift. The forklift the employee was operating collided with the concrete base of a piling in Section E of Transit Shed 2. The concrete base was approximately 48" diameter and 38" in height. There was physical damage to the concrete base of the piling and concrete was broken away in pieces around the base. The left fork of the lift was in front of and to the right of the concrete base of the piling. The left fork had been bent upwards approximately 6" from the impact with the concrete base. The forks of the lift were approximately 8 feet long and 7.5" wide. The fork were 8.5" from the ground and matched the height of the center of impact of the concrete base of the piling. A carriage bearing to the mast had been broken and was laying in two pieces on the ground. The plastic casing to the parking break on the forklift had been shattered and pieces were found on the ground. The seat of the

	forklift was approximately 6 feet from the ground. The seatbelt of the lift was tested and found to be in working order. When asked Port Manager Jack Diethofer claimed that the forklift was in forward gear. Mr. Diethofer claimed that the only thing that had been changed after the incident occurred was that he engaged the parking brake and shut off the lift. The forklift was later inspected by a mechanic working with the employer and it was found that multiple safety devices on the lift, including the seatbelt warning light, had been disabled. The employee was unseated from the forklift when he collided with the concrete base of a piling, fell approximately 6 feet to concrete and was then ran over by the left rear tire of the lift. If the employee would have been wearing a seatbelt, he would have not been ejected from the lift to concrete floor below and would have not been ran over by the forklift.
What was the injury or illness?	The employee sustained fatal injuries including blunt force head and torso trauma. The employee was pronounced deceased at 3:28 PM. The Division issued CCR Title 8, 3650(t)(33) Serious-Accident Related.
What was the object or substance that directly harmed the employee?	Forklift.
Keywords	

Victim 1	
Injured/Deceased Name	Phillip Vargas
Gender	MALE
Age	54
Victim Injury	Fatality-OSHA covered
Cause	Struck by
Nature of Injury	Other
Next of Kin 1	

