

Safety Bulletin (Gas) SB/10552

MacQuarie Company – Fatality Alert

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What has happened?

- A forklift truck ran out of fuel whilst working on site. A maintenance crew was dispatched to refuel and re-commission the vehicle. The Maintenance crew discovered that the starter motor had also failed. The vehicle was taken back to the Maintenance workshop.
- The following day a mechanic was sent to fit a replacement starter motor. The forklift truck had a forward tilting cab (see photograph). The mechanic used the electric hydraulic pump to tilt the cab. The forklift 'mast' was raked backwards, and it would not allow the cab to 'tilt' fully forward and engage the cab securing mechanism. This meant that the cab was only held in the raised position due to the hydraulic system.
- The mechanic started work underneath the cab, not appreciating that the hydraulic lift system was leaking slowly
- The mechanic became trapped underneath the falling cab, tragically, the mechanic was crushed to death



This photograph shows the correct alignment,

- mast raked forward,
- cab tilted fully forward

Key learning points

- This tragic incident occurred in another MacQuarie portfolio company and, although an investigation is underway, the immediate facts are worth sharing to prevent similar incident happening.
- Although this particular incident involved maintenance of a fork lift truck, the key message is the importance of safety and protection devices on plant, vehicles and equipment.
- When circumstances change or it is not possible to proceed with work as planned or according to procedure:
 - STOP the activity, making safe any ongoing processes
 - ASSESS the situation and summon additional support if required
 - PLAN the controls required to continue the operation safely, with appropriate authorisation

Actions required:

- Cadent have 39 Fork Lift trucks
- Contact is underway with BT Fleet to understand how many of them have tilt cabs and what their safety procedure is when the cab is required to be tilted.
- 5 are with Operations and the remaining 34 are with DHL but serviced through the BT Fleet contract

Other Cadent vehicles with 'tilting cabs

- Our HGV trucks have tilt cabs but these are slightly different in the fact they go over centre.
- Likewise the Vac ex have the hopper that tips both of which have props and guidance on how to use them.
- There are a handful of tipper trailers will have the same potential
- Identifying these vehicles through the fleet list description is underway