• Make sure the load is secured and not released until safe to do so
• Operator should ensure that all workers are clear before releasing a load
Our safety talk today is about a 37-year-old truck driver who died when a salvage vehicle rolled off the top deck of his truck and crushed him. Another employee lifted the car onto the top deck with a forklift. The victim turned around to prepare the lower deck when the forklift operator released the car before it was properly secured to the deck. The car immediately rolled backward, and fell on the victim. He died immediately.

So here are some ways we can prevent something like this from happening where we work.

- Always secure loads to the forklift, and make sure that the load is completely secured in the transporter before removing the forklift.
- Always make sure that all workers are clear before releasing a load, especially if you cannot see past your load. If necessary get a spotter to assist.
- Make sure to communicate and work with your loading partners.
- Management or I need to make sure that everyone using equipment are properly trained and retrained as needed.

ASK: “Does anyone have more ideas or comments to share?”

Pause for discussion. Then see if there are ways to take action.

END WITH ACTION PLAN (ideas for what to ask or say).

- “Are there suggestions to make sure that all load on a forklift is safely secured?”
- “Does anyone have ideas for improving our communication systems?”
- “How often should forklift operators be re-trained?” what if there’s been an unsafe practice or an incident?”
- Discuss a similar situation at your current site.
- Express your commitment to training people for each task.
- Commit to follow-up at the next safety talk.