

Example D



Accident

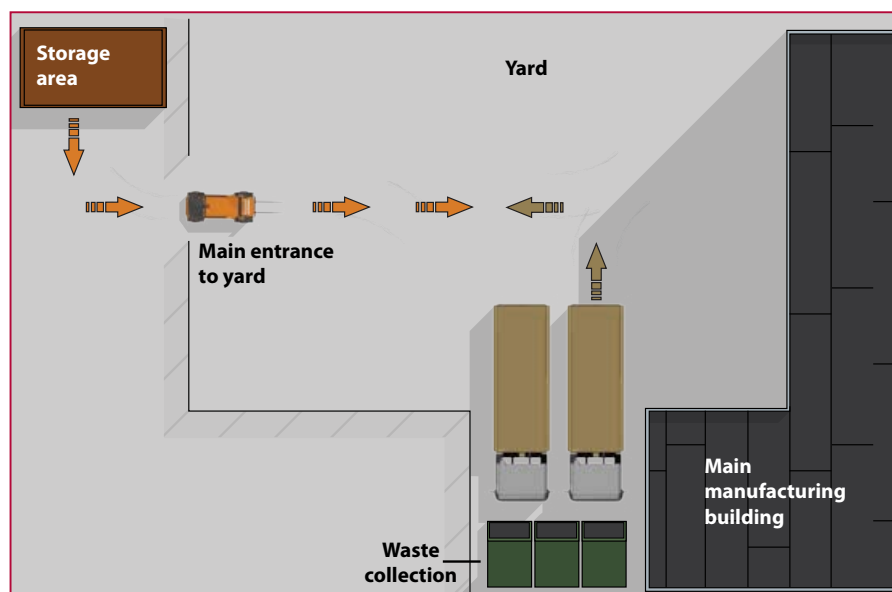
The incident took place on a rainy evening in October 2006. It involved 22 year-old forklift operator, Mark Johnson, who had been recently employed by the company and had just completed his two-week forklift training course. At the time of the incident, Mark drove an 8000-pound capacity forklift truck into the yard of the steel mill. He picked up a 3000-pound bag of bulk material from the storage area and started driving back towards the mill's main manufacturing building.

The yard was poorly lit and it did not have designated traffic lanes for either industrial trucks or vehicles. Mark drove his forklift straight across the yard's unmarked, dirt roadway towards the main production building. At the time of the incident, a large industrial dump truck was routinely parked in the yard after having collected waste material. The driver of the dump truck entered his vehicle, checked his mirrors, and started reversing. Although the dump truck was fitted with reversing alarms, the driver later said that they failed to detect that the forklift was in its path. The dump truck driver moved about five feet when the truck suddenly came to a halt. The driver came out of the truck and found the forklift behind the dump truck tipped over onto its side. The forklift operator, who was not wearing his seat belt, was trapped underneath the forklift.

Site description

The accident took place in a large steel manufacturer that produces approximately 11 tonnes of steel per month. The company owns several facilities across the UK, employing a total of 4000 employees. The incident took place in one of the organisation's steel mills that specialises in the production of coiled steel rods. The steel mill employs approximately 250 employees.

The site consisted of a main production building and waste collection area, both of which were accessed through a yard. The yard was a large area packed with dirt and had several unmarked roadways running through it. Routine operations on the site involved the transport of bulk material to the main production building by forklift trucks. The storage area was located just outside the entrance to the yard. Solid, rock-like waste was also collected on the mill site by large industrial dump trucks. There was a designated parking area for dump trucks located in front of the waste collection area.



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The consequences

The forklift operator was pronounced dead at the scene, despite the efforts of the plant emergency response team and the emergency medical service.

The company was prosecuted and found guilty for breaching the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974. In mitigation, the company claimed that it had carried out risk assessments for the management of site traffic but they lacked sufficient detail. It accepted responsibility for the accident and subsequently put several measures in place to prevent a similar accident from occurring again.

