



Communication Is Key

Industry: **Long Haul Trucking**
Occupation: **Flatbed Truck Driver**
Task: **Transferring Load**

A 45-year-old flatbed truck driver was assisting in the transfer of his load. When the third stack of material was being loaded, the truck driver realized the 2x4 dunnage was not adjusted correctly. He made eye contact and hand signs with the forklift driver, who stopped loading.

The truck driver adjusted the right side of the dunnage and went to adjust the front. As he was adjusting the front, he hit the back of the dunnage and had to readjust it. He could not reach it so he went under the load to get to it. That was when the forklift driver placed the 1,000 lb. load of steel on top of him. The truck driver screamed. Breathing quickly became difficult as his body was crushed. The forklift driver then realized he had put the load on him and raised it.

Thankfully, this was not a fatality. However, the driver suffered major injuries to his neck, hips and back, and is still off work a year and a half later. The financial cost to care for his injuries is more than \$120,000.

Following simple procedures and communicating clearly could have prevented this injury.



Injury Prevention Tips For Working with Forklifts

- Stay away from your truck's trailer when a forklift loads or unloads freight.
- If you must assist in loading or unloading, have a communication plan with the forklift driver and a safe area to stand.
- Never walk or crawl under a loaded forklift.

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